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74th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 10 D[illegible] 2003, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Hunte ..... (St. Lucia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 48 ***(continued)***

Fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Award of human rights prizes in 2003

Agenda item 117 ***(continued)***

Human rights questions

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The President: The General Assembly will continue the commemorative meetings under agenda items 48 and 117 (d).

Mr. Tekle (Eritrea): On 10 December 55 years ago — a day that has since been celebrated as Human Rights Day — the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the early days, not much attention was being paid to human rights, even by those who were regarded as the moral leaders of their communities and nations. Today, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent international human rights instruments have become an inspiration to the vast majority of humanity, including, in particular, the marginalized and the vulnerable, and a potent force in world affairs.

Indeed, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has become an inspirational source for numerous covenants, conventions, protocols, declarations and programmes of action. Among them, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which was adopted 10 years ago, on 25 June 1993, emphasizes and affirms the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action has also established guidelines for the creation of a global culture of human rights and the achievement of the lofty ideals and goals of, and the observance of the norms and standards set by, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is our fervent hope that the momentum, seen particularly in the past two decades, will be maintained in the struggle to consolidate existing rights and to promote new rights in the age of globalization.

The successes of the past 55 years were achieved through the immense sacrifices made by women and men of many nations, religions and cultures during the major part of a century noted for violence and hatred. During the same 55 years that saw the codification of the magnificent human rights instruments, the world has also been ravaged by horrific wars and conflicts in almost all of the continents and by outrageous violations of human rights, including genocide, massive deportations and ethnic cleansing, racial discrimination, religious and ethnic persecution, as

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well as egregious violence against women, children and minorities. Child labour and the use of children in war were also rampant.

Thus, as we celebrate Human Rights Day, it becomes entirely appropriate to pay tribute to the heroes and martyrs of human rights, whose dedication to the cause made them endure much pain and humiliation. Some have even paid with their lives. They come from all walks of life. Some were heads of State or Government; others were religious leaders; still others were intellectuals. Some were leaders of liberation movements; others were leaders of labour movements. Some worked with international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, while others worked with student and youth movements. A significant group conducted spontaneous movements.

The various movements that were active during 1950-1990 and their courageous leaders have managed to etch on the collective mind of humanity a certain consciousness of the human rights and civil liberties that have been denied to many in the world. They also demonstrated that laws and institutions become meaningless in the absence of the vigilance and, in some circumstances, the militant agitation of an informed constituency.

On the other hand, it must unfortunately be observed that those States and institutions that were entrusted with the mandate of creating a kinder and gentler world, the maintenance of a just world order and the promotion, protection and consolidation of human rights in keeping with the promises of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, have often failed the world miserably. No human logic can explain inaction in Cambodia and Rwanda and other places where genocide, ethnic cleansing, aggression and other gross violations of human rights took place. Only disinterest in certain regions, diffidence among allies and friendly States and political trade-offs in the United Nations can provide an explanation.

Eritreans speak from bitter first-hand experience of such extreme cases of human rights violations. In 1950 they were denied the right to self-determination when they were forcibly dragooned into a federation with Ethiopia. In 1961, they were denied their right to their own identity when Emperor Haile Selassie's Government annulled the federation, whose continued existence was guaranteed by a United Nations resolution. Not a word of protest was heard at the United Nations or from any foreign ministry.

Eritreans now fear that they may again be in the process of being defrauded of their sovereignty and territorial integrity and of sovereignty over their natural resources, owing to the unfair and unjust insistence of some States that the conflicting parties in our boundary dispute enter into a dialogue before demarcation, the intent and purposes of which, Eritreans firmly believe, are to subvert the final and binding decision of an Arbitration Commission sanctioned by the United Nations, which would violate the treaty agreements signed under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Government and people of Eritrea have always been, and continue to be, ready to enter into a dialogue, but only after they secure an internationally recognized border based on the final and binding decisions of the Arbitration Commission. Indeed, dialogue to normalize future relations would have started by now if demarcation had not been postponed three times.

Having been duped twice before in their history, the people of Eritrea view any such dialogue before demarcation as a manoeuvre to appease Ethiopia — which has rejected the Commission's decision — and to accede to Ethiopia's demand that an alternative mechanism be created by the Security Council to reconsider the issue. That would be a miscarriage of justice and the United Nations, as a signatory and a guarantor of the agreements would be in a position of violating international law and rewarding lawlessness. That would also be an ominous lesson to all small States, which pin their faith and hope on the United Nations. History is replete with examples that show that appeasement invariably leads to conflict and human rights violations. Eritreans were prepared to forget the past; and they shall, unless the present threatens their future.

Even now, the world faces numerous challenges for which we must find satisfactory solutions. Among those are the questions of sovereignty and human rights, relativism and human rights, and transnational corporations and human rights. Those issues have been with us for enough time to warrant a detailed commentary. Yet, they continue to cry for solutions and the international community needs to address them as

urgently as possible, if only because, in the absence of clear guidelines, some States have recently pursued polices with disastrous results in international relations.

Tension also exists between first- and second-generation rights, in spite of the fact that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action recognizes that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. However, there is increasing sympathy with the view that, for the multitudes in the third world who are deprived of food, shelter, medicine, education and the other necessities of survival, and suffer from the ravages of conflict, exclusion, discrimination and repression, the choice is irrelevant. What matters in their lives is human security broadly defined. To that end, numerous academics and activists are now focusing on a new generation of rights called development rights. Those third-generation or solidarity rights are international in content, emphasize solidarity and include, inter alia, the rights to peace, development, self-determination, sovereignty over national resources and environment. Those rights are duly emphasized in many regional instruments, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, humanity is forced to confront the threat to human rights posed by globalization. The instability caused by transnational corporations, the negative impact of structural adjustment programmes, the capricious movement of financial capital, the erosion of State power, environmental degradation, refugee crises, the transnational narcotics trade and trafficking in women are all having devastating effects not only on developing States but also on some developed States.

It is in fact becoming increasingly evident that globalization has been detrimental to social and economic protections and is threatening human rights. Thus, the argument that a tension exists between western and non-western values and between individual and communal values is not valid. Globalization is a threat to social welfare and community cohesion in each case.

As it engages the new century, humanity must also take stock of the successes and failures of the past century, and of the good decisions and mistakes made, if only to learn lessons therefrom and draw appropriate guidelines. Among those elements are the fervent and universal yearning of the people of the world for peace. In some regions, peace may be equated with the elimination of the threat of nuclear war. To many — the vast majority of humanity — peace is related to survival, justice, fair play and the rule of law. The achievement of security — human security — is identified with development, health, education, shelter, the eradication of poverty and repression and the prevention of environmental degradation. The concepts of globality, common fate and interdependence promote the need for all peoples to participate equally and actively in the creation of a better world, to protect human rights and to advance the causes of peace and the public good and equality worldwide. There exists an urgency for a global human rights culture which would foster a stable development for all nations and advance equality of life for all people. There is a need to remember that humanity has yet to emerge victorious in the struggle for human rights, indeed, the future of the United Nations itself does not seem irreversible.

We must learn from the fate of the League of Nations that the future of human rights — determinant factors to the survival of the United Nations — is predicated on the upholding of the principle of equality of all nations, big and small, and the promotion and protection of the human rights of all people, rich or poor.

There is a prerequisite that those who have been bestowed with leadership roles in the United Nations must lead by example and with impartially if they are truly to promote and protect human rights worldwide — and if those who have tied their fate to the United Nations are to respect and trust it. There is an imperative need to listen to other voices. Civil Society has a significant role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights and we must therefore listen to the people through their legitimate organizations. A generation which does not listen to its youth makes the terrible mistake of ignoring the future.

When we look to the future, we recognize the inevitability of the continuation of the epic war between good and evil in the struggle for human rights. Triumphs and celebrations will be followed by failures and gloom. Cynicism and deal-making in the councils of power will, even if temporarily, undermine goodwill and cooperation for mutual benefit. Yet, the history of the past 55 years gives us enough cause to be optimistic that humanity will unite to eradicate the

scourges that have so far caused us much pain and anguish. Happy holidays.

Mr. Diab (Lebanon): Fifty-five years ago today, on 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the first comprehensive agreement among nations asserting the specific rights and freedoms of all human beings. Along with the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has provided the moral and legal basis for United Nations action against violators of human rights.

On this day, Human Rights Day, we reaffirm our faith and commitment to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by recognizing the outstanding achievements of the men and women and organizations who have strived to defend victims of human rights violations.

We congratulate those who have been chosen today to receive the 2003 United Nations prizes in the field of human rights, and we thank them for their contributions, enthusiasm and humanitarian conviction in promoting human rights. They, like the diverse group of people that were involved in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, have transcended national, social and cultural boundaries and recognized the universal standard of the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — rights that are necessary for every person in the realization of his or her full potential as a human being.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the refuge for the weak and the vulnerable. New democracies have consistently embraced the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as they emerge from under the weight of dictatorships and gain independence from colonial Powers.

The people living under occupation relentlessly point to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a primary source of inspiration in their own struggle for self-determination, sovereignty and independence from the occupying Power. And while walls are being erected to divide and annex other people's land, in the name of security for the occupier, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reminds us that it not only recognizes the inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual human being, but it also recognizes that human beings live in community with one another, and that this community is vital to the complete human being. As such, adherence to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has become a moral prerequisite for full participation in the community of nations.

Unfortunately, the challenges that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights addressed in 1948 are still very much present in our world today. Governments continue to torture and murder individuals because of their beliefs, their ethnicity, their opinions or their struggle for freedom. Governments still deprive millions of people of their fundamental rights to food, shelter, education, property and freedom, and they justify their oppressive measures to undermine basic human rights for their own self-interests.

One year ago, on this same occasion of Human Rights Day, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, the third High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in commemoration of the fifty-fourth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

> "The best chance for preventing, limiting, solving and recovering from conflict and violence lies in the restoration and defence of the rule of law. Armed conflict stands as a bloody monument to the failure of the rule of law. We must break the cycle of violence. Where armed repression strips people of their rights and dignity, let those responsible answer under the rule of law. Where terrorism inflicts misery, let those responsible answer under the rule of law. Let the fundamental rules of human rights and human dignity apply to every State and every armed group, every individual and every collective, every public entity and every private corporation."

Today, as we mourn the loss of Mr. Vieira de Mello, and as we recognize his great achievements in the field of human rights, his words remain with us as a constant reminder that there is an everlasting need for a proper tool to uphold the rule of law and make it prevail. In this manner, the perpetrators of violations of human rights would be brought to justice, and the human rights violations reported by independent bodies, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be taken seriously and rectified.

Based upon the conviction that Governments have an obligation to protect the human rights proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, the United Nations has created a number of mechanisms and procedures to influence the conduct of Governments that violate those rights. This year, the 2003 Award of the United Nations prize in the field of human rights has particular significance on the United Nations calendar, because, in addition to marking the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the year 2003 is also the tenth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights, which adopted the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. It is also the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the position of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Principles on national human rights institutions. These three landmark events not only contributed to the creation of new mechanisms and procedures for the protection of human rights at the national and international levels, but also reaffirmed the universality, interdependence and central role of all human rights.

Other actions undertaken by the United Nations in the past have included the dispatch of United Nations special rapporteurs to monitor and report on abuses, the establishment of human rights field missions in trouble spots and the imposition of economic and political sanctions. In recent years the United Nations Security Council has created two international tribunals to bring to justice individuals responsible for acts of genocide and other crimes against humanity committed in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

The United Nations International Criminal Court was another great achievement created to hold individual human rights abusers accountable and to fight vigorously to pursue justice for the individual victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, even if it fell short of defining the mother of all crimes, the crime of aggression.

Despite all the existing legal instruments, there remains a widespread consensus on the necessity to cultivate a wider array of international human rights instruments, so as to improve the coordination of the activities of the various institutions and bodies active in the field of international human rights and to streamline the law-making process in order to avoid the apparent inconsistencies between the various treaties. In many instances compulsory measures of protection of human rights on the national, regional and international levels boil down to a mere reporting system. These procedures lack teeth because they can ultimately lead only to a conciliation attempt.

Another problem arises from the large number of various kinds of reservations entered by contracting States in their acceptance of their obligations under the various international human rights instruments. This tends to undermine their effective implementation and thus requires rectification.

Charles Habib Malik of Lebanon played a vital role in shaping the Universal Declaration of Human Rights while he was Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and is credited with being the driving force behind the document's preparation. Mr. Malik believed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be more than a document of morally persuasive worth. In celebrating the adoption of the Universal Declaration, Mr. Malik said,

> "Whoever values man and his individual freedom above everything else cannot fail to find in the present Declaration a potent ideological weapon. If wielded in complete good will, sincerity and truth, this weapon can prove most significant in the history of the spirit."

To what extent the proliferation of international human rights documents at the global level has led to the emergence of an international customary law of human rights, binding upon all States, remains a matter of debate. Conflicting ideologies and interests and mutual distrust still impact on the assertion of customary natural law with reference to human rights. Agreement will be easier to reach and trust easier to build if we concentrate on common values and interests when upholding the rule of law, and avoid abusing international instruments of human rights in the pursuit of other political, economic or military objectives.

Mr. Gallegos (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, I wish to endorse the statement made by the delegate of Peru on behalf of the Rio Group.

On this special day, as we commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in Vienna in 1993, we are called upon to reflect on international efforts carried out by the entire international community to promote and protect human rights. But, of even greater importance, today we are to renew our commitment to the work that

remains to be done to ensure that human rights will be a reality in the lives of all peoples of the world.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the most important documents in the history of mankind, has been an unprecedented landmark for world coexistence because it assumed a broader understanding of the significance of human dignity and of the need for human rights of all peoples to be respected throughout the world without distinction. Both the Declaration and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action have contributed to reaffirming that human rights are the basis for human existence and coexistence, and that human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, and that they are bound to the dignity of each person.

In this context and as a result of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, efforts by the international community since 1948 have been aimed at ensuring that the rights enshrined in this instrument, covering everyone on an equal footing without distinction as to race, sex, colour, language, religion, opinion, national or social origin, are reflected in an impressive number of international normative instruments. However, despite all of these efforts, full enjoyment of human rights continues to be merely a promise for millions of people in the world.

The unequal distribution of wealth, extreme poverty, discrimination and privileges for a few tend to generate political instability and outbreaks of war. The fact that there are refugees and forcibly displaced persons within their own countries reflects the inability of societies to resolve their problems peacefully. Violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms still prevail in many societies.

The problem of international migration is considered one of the major challenges facing the international community. To deal with this situation, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was adopted. The election of the members of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families will be held tomorrow, and this is an important step in this area. From this rostrum, I wish to reiterate my invitation to all Members of the United Nations to sign and ratify this international instrument as we agreed in this very Hall.

It is an ethical and moral obligation to advance the cause of human rights and to protect the vulnerable peoples of the world. For that reason my people and my Government are convinced of the need to draft a convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of disabled persons. As Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, I wish to invite all representatives to join efforts to ensure that such an instrument becomes a reality as soon as possible so as to ensure the full protection of the rights of the disabled.

A world society that does not the inclusion of all human beings in the world, be they women, indigenous people, children, the disabled, migrants and many, many more, will never be inclusive, comprehensive and complete. Discrimination on any grounds is completely unjustifiable, and the international community must put an end to it.

Ecuador has made a number of contributions to the development of international law in the area of human rights, and it is the first country of Latin America to have signed all international treaties on human rights agreed here at United Nations Headquarters.

In June 1998, Ecuador, after a lengthy process of consultation and debate among governmental institutions and civil society, adopted the first national plan for human rights as State policy. The national plan identifies the main sectors of Ecuadorian society that need particular attention and require efforts on the part of the State and civil society to find corrective measures and promote joint actions that will improve the conditions of those sectors, including women, children, families, the disabled, indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian people, minorities, the elderly, detainees, foreigners, migrants and refugees. This national plan is one of the best tools for human development in Ecuador.

The Political Constitution of 1998 incorporated most of the international principles of human rights set forth in the international treaties, such as the universality, comprehensiveness and interdependence of human rights and the imprescriptibility of legal action against and punishment of crimes of genocide, torture, forced disappearance of individuals, kidnapping and murder for political reasons or for reasons of conscience. The Constitution establishes and grants civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and spells out the situations in which there can

be no discrimination against the enjoyment of those rights.

Similarly, Ecuador signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in July 1998.

The celebration of the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the tenth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action provide us with an opportunity to take stock of the past, to reflect on the way in which we must meet these challenges today and, above all, to look to the future. The persistent challenge of the international community is to translate the Declaration into an instrument that protects all human beings.

Allow me to reaffirm the commitment of my country to protect and promote human rights. It is the very basis for development and, in this context, economic development is an imperative, which will make it possible to ensure the dignity of all human beings.

Mr. Hannesson (Iceland): At the outset, let me, as previous speakers have done, give my congratulations to this year's well-deserving recipients of the Prizes in the Field of Human Rights.

Fifty-five years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights marked the beginning of the important work of the United Nations in codifying and developing international human rights law. This is one area in which the United Nations has been successful. Although the Declaration was not originally thought to establish international legal obligations, it can now be persuasively argued that substantial parts of the Declaration have become part of customary international law and is binding on States.

The human rights instruments that followed the Declaration have led to enormous progress in spelling out obligations in this field. What has made the system weak, however, has been the lack of enforcement mechanisms. This has now been improved with the entry into force of the International Criminal Court. My country has high hopes that the Court will be a powerful tool for enforcement.

We are also celebrating the tenth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights, in which we declared all human rights to be universal. We also confirmed that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind is a fundamental rule of international human rights law. Unfortunately, basic human rights, including political and civil rights, are breached in many parts of the world. Iceland recalls the importance attached to democracy as a means of safeguarding human rights. Furthermore, discrimination on the basis of race, colour, gender and religion continues all over the world. More rigorous efforts are needed to ensure human rights and to combat discrimination. No discrimination should be tolerated.

In Vienna, we underlined that the rights of women are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. Nevertheless, discrimination against women remains widespread worldwide and violence against women is one of the most common and glaring human rights abuses, not only in times of war, but also in the domestic setting. Iceland is ready to join forces with others to find ways to address such problems through the United Nations system. We welcome the new initiatives that were taken during this session on domestic violence and the request for a study on violence against women to be submitted to the sixtieth session. It is regrettable that we were unable to reach a more comprehensive commitment to combat violence against women.

Last week we marked the International Day of Disabled Persons. Their rights need to be ensured. Iceland hopes for progress on the elaboration of an international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

The World Conference on Human Rights underlined the link between extreme poverty, development and human rights. On the positive side, we have managed to map out ways of approaching the challenge of development through the Millennium Declaration. On the other hand, progress towards achieving the goals set is very slow.

A worrying setback has been the stalling of the Cancún process aimed at creating a trading system that is fair to all. Many countries are committed to revitalizing those discussions. We in the Nordic countries — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden — have started talks in Geneva with a number of our African colleagues to share ideas on ways to push this process forward. It is important to keep in mind that human rights, development and security are intricately related, although, as the Vienna

Declaration and Programme of Action states, poverty cannot be an excuse for violating human rights.

In Vienna we acknowledged that the aim of terrorism is, among other things, the destruction of human rights. Since then, terrorism has emerged as one of the main threats to global security. Iceland welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General to establish a panel to study global security threats. While combating terrorism, we must ensure that any measures taken comply with our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. We must uphold the rights of victims of war to be assisted by humanitarian organizations. Attacks on the personnel of humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations, are unacceptable. It is also important to remember that all parties to armed conflicts have rights under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and international human rights law.

The proliferation and availability of weapons, not least small weapons, multiplies violence and suffering. Iceland supports the calls for an arms trade treaty to prevent arms being exported to destinations where they are likely to be used to commit grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Iceland, together with other Nordic countries, has already signed a pledge along these lines in collaboration with the Red Cross.

Trade in devices that can be used in torture is also a matter of concern. We commend the work being carried out in a number of forums to set limits on trade in such equipment. Finally, in line with the commitment made at the World Conference, Iceland appeals to all Member States to review any reservations they have made to international human rights instruments, with a view to withdrawing them. This is particularly pertinent with regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We should also continue to strive for their universal ratification.

Mr. Baatar (Mongolia): I have the honour, on behalf of the Government and the people of Mongolia to extend to the winners of the 2003 United Nations prizes in the field of human rights our warm congratulations and best wishes in their future endeavours for the noble cause of protecting and promoting human rights.

Today, we are gathered here to commemorate the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights Day. This year we are also celebrating the tenth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights, which adopted by consensus the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The Government and people of Mongolia highly value the spirit, goals and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and attach high priority to its implementation.

My delegation fully shares the deep distress and anguish, expressed in his message by Mr. Bertrand Ramcharan, Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the fact that human rights are grossly violated throughout the world because of poverty, violence, prejudice, armed conflicts, terrorism and bad governance. It goes without saying that the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms are among the primary responsibilities of each and every State. Three years ago, our leaders solemnly declared in the Millennium Declaration that they would

> "spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development". (*A/RES/55/2, para. 24*)

Over the past years continued efforts have been made by Member States to protect and promote human rights, to strengthen the rule of law and to promote democracy at both national and international levels, but much more should done to attain the embodiment of the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In this respect I wish to refer to the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, held in Mongolia last September. Participants of the Conference recognized in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action on Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and synergistic. While the Ulaanbaatar Plan of Action provides for a number of measures towards protecting and promoting human rights, we are confident that the outcome of the Ulaanbaatar Conference and its follow-up activities will contribute to the course of strengthening and consolidating democratic processes and protecting and promoting human rights around the world.

In Mongolia, under the inspiration of democratic reform, which started in the early 1990s, an intensive process of legislative change has taken place to ensure the consistency of national law with international standards. The new Constitution adopted in 1992 integrated international human rights standards and became the key to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country. The adoption by the Parliament of the Law on the National Human Rights Commission and its establishment in 2001 has become an important step in promoting human rights at the national level.

My Government's commitment to human rights is further embodied in a number of national action plans, including the National Human Rights Plan of Action and the National Programme on Gender Equality. A wide range of civil society groups and non-governmental organizations are involved in implementing these plans and programmes, as well as in numerous events and activities organized in Mongolia every year to celebrate Human Rights Day nationwide.

But we are fully aware that greater efforts are needed to ensure that the goals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are realized for every individual in our country. My Government is committed to the fulfilment of human rights and improvement in the living standards for our people through its support of democracy and socio-economic development.

On this commemoration day, I wish to reiterate Mongolia's keenness to further strengthen its national human rights institutions and programmes, as well as to cooperate at the regional and international levels in building a world that lives up to the promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Idoko (Nigeria): Nigeria wishes to congratulate the recipients of the Human Rights Award for the year 2003. The achievements of these recipients serve as an inspiration to us all. We also wish to pay tribute to the memories and the sacrifice of the late United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello and his colleagues.

Nigeria commends the United Nations for its invaluable role in the promotion on a global level, of human rights, freedom and equality, which constitute the fundamental values and principles of international relations.

As we mark the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, my delegation feels obliged to touch on a number of issues relating to human rights. We do appreciate the difficulties and sometimes the dangers that human rights defenders grapple with in the course of their duties. In this regard, we identify with the concerns of human rights defenders for those in States which, under cover of security and internal regulations and legislation, deliberately frustrate the work of human rights defenders. While saluting their courage and commitment, we urge Member States to accord human rights defenders access and cooperation in carrying out their functions. We also encourage the human rights defenders to go the extra mile to allay the fears and suspicions of Member States.

Nigeria welcomes the promotion of human rights education through such institutions as the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, under the aegis of the United Nations, as a veritable means of achieving goals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights worldwide.

The Nigerian delegation identifies with the anxieties expressed concerning the negative effects of globalization on developing economies in Africa. In this regard, we welcome the report of the Secretary-General which points out that

> "the dominant trend today is to interpret global governance in such a way as to marginalize the role of the United Nations in favour of the international financial institutions". (*A/58/257/para. 49*)

Empirical evidence suggests that globalization has not adequately addressed the question of the human element and interdependency and has, by extension, failed to take cognizance of the right to employment.

Nigeria believes that rights embody freedom, dignity, equality and security for all peoples. The need to guarantee those rights cannot be overemphasized. A regime for that purpose is indeed imperative. Such a regime includes the promotion and sustenance of democratic governance, the rule of law, social and economic justice, transparency and freedom of expression. Today I am glad to note, the Nigerian people enjoy every form of freedom — freedom of political association, freedom of expression without fear of harassment or intimidation, freedom to pursue legitimate economic and social activities, and security

of life and property. Under the present democratic Government in Nigeria, there are no political prisoners. The Nigerian press enjoys unfettered freedom, and numerous privately-owned radio and television stations and newspapers. That freedom has certainly enhanced the system of checks and balances in both the public and private sectors.

The introduction of Shariah Law in Nigeria should be seen as an expression of the rights of the concerned Nigerian states to exercise the level of autonomy granted to them in the Nigerian Constitution. As a federation, the constituent states that make up Nigeria enjoy a considerable measure of autonomy which empowers them to make laws that govern them. The Shariah Law, as practised in the affected states, has provisions which ensure protection for accused persons against unjust or arbitrary punishment. If an accused person is found guilty, he or she has the right to appeal to a higher court. The accused Amina Lawal was not stoned to death because the Shariah Court of Appeal quashed the verdict of the lower court. It is important to note that since the introduction of Shariah Law in some states in Nigeria, no one has been stoned to death.

Nigeria's faith in freedom and democracy and its commitment to human rights explain why it granted political asylum to former President Charles Taylor of Liberia. The asylum granted to Mr. Taylor was a purely humanitarian gesture intended to put an end to the carnage that was going on in Liberia. It had become clear that Mr. Taylor's departure from Liberia was a sine qua non for peaceful negotiations to end the conflict in that country. Nigeria offered to make that important sacrifice in spite of enormous human and material costs, in order to save millions of Liberians from unnecessary misery and hardship.

As the world marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Nigeria feels compelled to comment on the Israeli-Palestinian situation and the plight of children and ordinary people in those two States.

There is no doubt that the years of recurring violence from both the Israeli and Palestinian sides have proved futile. If anything, the vicious cycle of violence has yielded a devious harvest of untold hardship, misery, despair, bitterness, frustration and, worse still, a stronger desire for more violence and vengeance. The real desire of both parties, which is freedom, security and peace, has not been achieved. The failure to achieve freedom, peace and security shows that violence, whether through suicide bombing or conventional warfare, is not the answer. The answer lies in dialogue and compromise, anchored on true faith in the right of all human beings to freedom, peace and security; not faith in hatred and the destruction of the other person.

Mr. Lamba (Malawi), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Nigeria wishes to use this opportunity to reaffirm its support for the road map and urges both Israel and Palestine to embrace dialogue and compromise and show more commitment to the realization of peace in the subregion, at least for the sake of the suffering children of Israel and Palestine.

Mr. Ozawa (Japan): On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to the distinguished individuals and organizations who have just been honoured with the United Nations prize in the field of human rights. I salute them for the great courage they have shown in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The recognition today of their outstanding contributions will no doubt encourage many people all over the world, who are also fighting on a day-to-day basis, to gain more respect for human rights issues. I think that Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, the late United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, is watching us today. We have a responsibility to carry on with his work and further strive to promote and protect human rights all over the world.

Fifty-five years have passed since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted, and 10 years since the international community renewed its commitment to promote and protect human rights by adopting the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. While we have witnessed significant progress since then, we have to admit that grave human rights violations continue to take place in many parts of the world. The fact is, fundamental human rights are not acquired as a matter of course, but promoted only through determined and tireless efforts by individuals, civil society and States. Also, vigorous and continuing international cooperation is a prerequisite for enhancing human rights universally.

Japan attaches great importance to the role of the United Nations in establishing the universal standards

Agenda item 40 (*continued*)

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Draft resolution (A/58/L.47)

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Draft resolution (A/58/L.39)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Draft resolutions (A/58/L.31/Rev.1, A/58/L.40, A/58/L.41, A/58/L.42, A/58/L.45 and A/58/L.46)

(c) Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Draft resolution (A/58/L.44)

(d) Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

Draft resolution (A/58/L.43)

(e) Assistance to the Palestinian people

Draft resolution (A/58/L.33/Rev.1)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly has already held a debate on agenda item 40 and its sub-items (a) to (e), and that it adopted three resolutions under this item at its 69th meeting, on 5 December 2003.

I give the floor to the representative of South Africa to introduce, on behalf of the Group of African States, draft resolutions A/58/L.31/Rev.1, A/58/L.40, A/58/L.41 and A/58/L.45. The President respectfully suggests that the statement of the representative of South Africa be listened to in silence.

Mr. Oosthuizen (South Africa): I have the honour, as Chairman of the Group of African States for the month of December, to introduce for consideration by the General Assembly the following draft resolutions under sub-item (b) of agenda item 40, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance [to individual countries or regions]".

I will start with draft resolution A/58/L.31/Rev.1, entitled "Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of th. Democratic Republic of the Congo". I would like to announce that, since the publication of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors of the text: Luxembourg, Germany, Sweden and Ireland.

That draft resolution is being submitted under sub-item (b) of agenda item 40, concerning the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special assistance to individual countries or regions, pursuant to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/58/273, which describes the assistance to the process of the economic revival and reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the United Nations system, as well as by other development partners, by supporting the rehabilitation, reconstruction and reunification of the country.

The signing of the final act of the inter-political negotiations on 2 April 2003 in South Africa offers encouraging prospects for a peaceful resolution of the country's political crisis, providing the possibility for some activities of the United Nations system.

As Member States are aware, this draft resolution has now been introduced for a few years. However, despite recent positive developments, the overall situation that necessitated this text during previous years continues to prevail. The aftermath of armed conflict, combined with the structural imbalances in the economy, have kept the majority of the Congolese people in vulnerable and difficult circumstances, particularly regarding their humanitarian situation.

Currently, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is not in a position to meet all its challenges in, among other things, consolidating peace, accelerating economic activities and fighting poverty in general, without the valuable support of the international

and norms in the field of human rights. Japan has already ratified six principal international human rights instruments, and it welcomes the decision to establish a working group to draft an international convention on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. We are ready to participate actively in that process.

Japan will continue to support the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a post that was established 10 years ago. We do hope and expect that the Office of the High Commissioner will pursue its work vigorously.

The Government of Japan firmly believes that human rights are universal values, and thus, must be promoted and protected in every part of the world. Accordingly, while each State has the primary responsibility for guaranteeing the human rights of its people, the human rights situation in any individual State should be a legitimate concern of the international community as a whole.

In our attempts to address actual human rights issues in certain States, we believe that it is necessary for us to promote mutual understanding, taking into account the specific situation of each State. With that conviction, Japan has placed great importance on dialogue and cooperation as a means of improving human rights situations in an effective and practical way.

On this commemorative and celebratory occasion, we believe that it is important for all of us to renew our recognition that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is indispensable to realizing world peace and prosperity. I would like to conclude my statement by reaffirming that Japan is committed to making every effort, in close cooperation with the United Nations and the international community, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr. Kim Sam-hoon (Republic of Korea): On this day, as the General Assembly winds down to the final weeks of its regular session and prepares to bid farewell to a tumultuous year with many ups and downs, we have an opportunity to reaffirm our unity under an abiding goal of the United Nations. Today we celebrate the progress made, with the United Nations in the lead, in promoting and protecting human rights around the world, and ponder the future direction in which the work should continue.

In particular, on this day, the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the tenth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the tenth year of existence of the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, we have welcomed to this honoured Hall the recipients of the United Nations prize in the field of human rights of 2003.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I join the previous speakers in offering my heartfelt congratulations to the five award recipients for their accomplishments to date in advancing human rights around the world. But recognition and thanks mean greater responsibility. As befitting the loftiest of prize-winners, I trust that today's honourees will receive their award as a solemn token of encouragement to redouble their commitment and to pioneer further inroads for human rights in their respective areas of focus.

I should also like to pay tribute once again to Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, who made the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty, and who we honour today with a special posthumous award. The recognition, I believe, is not only a most deserved honour for the late High Commissioner for Human Rights, but also an expression of the unshakeable resolve that the United Nations, no matter how tough the challenges and difficult the circumstances, will carry on in its mission to enable people everywhere to live with dignity in freedom, equality and non-discrimination. We commend you, Mr. President, and other members of the selection committee, for the outstanding choices made.

As the rich profiles of today's award recipients indicate, the endeavours to promote and protect human rights around the world remain as diverse and energetic as ever, and necessarily so. While the advances for human rights during the past half century, especially in terms of the global norms and institutions adopted, have been one of the proudest accomplishments of the United Nations, we have yet to attain our abiding goal of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

In the face of persistent conflict, political oppression, poverty, and HIV/AIDS and other diseases, a large part of humanity continues to be denied their human dignity and rights. Meanwhile, in these early

community. In a nutshell, that is what the draft resolution is trying to secure. A show of solidarity is therefore very important. In that regard, the Secretary-General rightfully stated in his report that the encouraging developments in the national context have created the prospect of emergence from the crisis, but that lasting recovery will require the support of all development partners to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its efforts to restore peace and security, bring emergency aid to people in need and embark on the process of economic recovery and reconstruction. In that spirit, and as in previous years, I hope that this draft resolution will be adopted by consensus.

I also have the honour, on behalf of the Group of African States, to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.40, entitled "Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia". This draft resolution is sponsored by 84 Member States, and I take this opportunity to thank them for their support. I should also like to announce that, since the publication of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Norway and Ireland.

The draft resolution under consideration reinforces General Assembly resolution 47/160, of 18 December 1992, and subsequent relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 56/106, of 14 December 2001, and 57/154, of 16 December 2002, calling for the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia.

The conditions that prompted the General Assembly to adopt the resolutions that I just mentioned continue to persist, and are exasperated by the lack of peace in many areas of Somalia. Furthermore, the recurrence of drought in Somalia, with devastating effects, underlines the urgent need for humanitarian and relief assistance for Somalia. Currently there is a major drought in Somalia, with a high livestock mortality rate of over 80 per cent and the concomitant high risk of starvation of Somali nomads. The prevailing drought situation places serious constraints on the already fragile economy of Somalia. In fact, there are very serious concerns that the current situation may result in the collapse of the Somali economy, which is mainly based on the export of livestock.

As members are aware, the economy and social infrastructure of Somalia have been severely damaged by the long years of civil war. There is an urgent need for assistance in the rehabilitation of the economic and social base of Somalia. Such rehabilitation will facilitate the delivery of much-needed services to the Somali people, and it could also serve as a peace dividend and enhance any transition to peace in Somalia.

Draft resolution A/58/L.40 notes the linkage between the search for peace and the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis in Somalia and, in that regard, welcomes the Secretary-General's continuous efforts in the search for peace, and reiterates firm support for the ongoing peace process for Somalia being led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. The draft resolution further commends the United Nations for its role in developing mechanisms for the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for Somalia, and underlines the urgent need for putting in place practical measures aimed at eliminating the consequences of the drought. It also urges all Somali parties to respect the safety and security of the personnel of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement and safe access, an important condition for the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The draft resolution calls on the Secretary-General to continue mobilizing international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia and, in that regard, urges the international community to continue to contribute to the United Nations 2004 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal, as well as to the United Nations Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia. Finally, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

It is our wish that draft resolution A/58/L.40 be adopted by consensus.

I also have the honour, on behalf of the Group of African States as well on behalf of the other sponsors, to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.41, entitled "Economic assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti", which provides a glimpse of that country's need for continued special economic assistance.

In its preambular paragraphs, the draft resolution notes that Djibouti is included in the list of least

years of the twenty-first century, the scourge of terrorism and its pernicious impact on safety and security pose a new set of challenges to the efforts to protect and promote human rights. Furthermore, as the physical and psychological conditions for daily life around the world constantly evolve in the process of globalization, human rights thinking and advocacy necessarily have to adapt and grow with the changing circumstances.

In other words, this is no time to slacken. Instead, the commitment to the work of promoting and protecting human rights must be reaffirmed at all levels. And while the efforts should reflect the realities of new developments in the twenty-first century, there are, I believe, some basic tenets that we must adhere to.

First, the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights should be more closely reflected in action. All rights — civil, political, economic, social and cultural — should be promoted in a comprehensive, integrated manner. The entry point or focus may vary, depending on local realities or available resources, but the overall direction must be the promotion of all human rights.

Secondly, the interdependence between human rights, democracy and development, made explicit in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, is as valid today as it was 10 years ago. In our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to strengthen democracy and democratic governance around the world, a human rights track must be an integral part of the road to success.

Thirdly, our aim must be the further enhancement of the human rights standards we have achieved so far at the national, regional and international levels. Whether we are dealing with women's rights, children's rights, the elimination of discrimination in all its forms, or other rights issues, the steps we take must be forward rather than backward.

Based on these principles, the Republic of Korea remains fully committed to efforts of the United Nations to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Five years from now, we hope to see concrete progress made along these lines, when we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the next awards of the Human Rights prize.

Mr. Chaimongkol (Thailand): Thaila welcomes this opportunity to join the internatio community today, Human Rights Day, commemorating the fifty-fifth anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I wish congratulate the recipients of the 2003 Human Rig prizes and pay tribute to others who work for the ca of human rights, including the late High Commissio for Human Rights, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, wh outstanding contribution truly deserved recognition, again, today.

Indeed, this year is of a particular significan for it also marks the tenth anniversary of the adopt of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Act and the establishment of the High Commissioner Human Rights. And today, 10 December, is particular importance to the Thai people as commemorates our Constitution Day — the day country's first Constitution was promulgated unde constitutional monarchy 71 years ago.

Since its adoption in 1948, the Univer Declaration of Human Rights has inspired and bee basis for further advances of international standa and norms for the promotion and protection of rights for all peoples. A number of internatio instruments have been elaborated and import progress made in promoting the universal recognit of human rights and fundamental freedoms, includ the right to development. In particular, the rights vulnerable and marginalized groups of people, such women, children, persons with disabilities, and th living with HIV/AIDS, have been more broa recognized. Recently, significant progress has b made towards an international convention to prot and promote the rights of people with disabilities. this regard, Thailand strongly hopes that the Gene Assembly will soon heed the recommendation that negotiations on the draft convention be started dur the current Assembly session.

Despite such progress and consistent reiterat of commitments, however, human rights violati continue unabated in many parts of the world. Milli of people remain direly in need of being free from f and want. Poverty, underdevelopment, hung diseases, discrimination, conflict, transnatio organized crime and terrorism, to name just a few, p tremendous challenges to the realization of hun rights and human security. These challenges and ot

causes of human rights violations must be addressed with vigour and full respect for human rights.

Actions to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms must be taken at all levels, in a holistic manner and with concerted efforts from various stakeholders, including Governments, the United Nations, multilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action provides a comprehensive framework for policies and actions in this regard.

Governments clearly have a primary responsibility in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at home. National human rights institutions and a thriving and socially responsible civil society can also play an important role in broadening awareness and enhancing transparency and accountability in the observance of Governments' obligations under both domestic laws and international instruments.

For Thailand, our commitment to human rights is not only reflected by our support for the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 55 years ago and of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 45 years later. Over the years, we have made incessant efforts in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthening democracy, the rule of law and good governance and improving the well-being of people. We have also become a State party to five key international human rights instruments. We have done so and will continue to do so based on our own conviction that human rights, democracy and development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

Today, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Thailand are guaranteed by our present constitution, which was drafted with the participation of the population, from every part of the country. People are placed at the centre of national development policies and efforts, with the recognition that their right to development is inalienable and integral to all other human rights. Our independent national human rights mechanisms, including the National Human Rights Commission and our civil society, continue to play a meaningful role in the advancement of human rights.

Dialogue and cooperation at regional and international levels also make important contributions to the cause of human rights. With this in mind, Thailand participates in a number of human rights dialogue and supports the establishment of an Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) human rights mechanism. Last May, the Thai National Commission on Human Rights and the Working Group of Thailand for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism co-hosted the Third Workshop on the ASEAN Regional Mechanism on Human Rights, involving participants from Governments, civil society and academia from South-East Asian countries. Thailand will remain active in this endeavour.

At the international level, the United Nations remains a key actor in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. With its global outreach, the United Nations has also assisted Governments and peoples towards the realization of human rights. In this regard, it remains incumbent upon us Member States to do what we can to further strengthen the sanctity and efficacy of what we have agreed upon, including the various human rights resolutions. It is also incumbent upon us to support the effective and valuable work of the United Nations, including that of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Before concluding, I would like to stress that, ultimately, for efforts to promote and protect human rights to be effective, it is imperative that respect for human rights be cultivated among individuals at the grassroots level. People should be conscious of their rights and freedoms as well as those of others. It is not enough to talk about respect for human rights, democracy and tolerance among officials, politicians and diplomats. The culture of human rights must be nurtured among people in communities, particularly among children, both at home and in schools; hence the crucial role of human rights education. Recognizing this, Thailand has adopted the National Plan on Human Rights Education for the period 1999 to 2008, which provides for the mainstreaming of human rights into the work of public agencies and into the educational system at all levels. We will join the international community in marking the conclusion of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education next year.

Human rights are not merely ideals to aspire to, but inherent rights which people are entitled to enjoy. We, as Members of the United Nations, should all act on the pledges we have made to alleviate the hardships and suffering of the people of present and future generations and enable them to enjoy their rights and

dignity. Thailand will do its part in the advancement of this noble cause to promote human rights for all.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): I wish to first pay tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello, the late High Commissioner for Human Rights, who was an outstanding advocate for the rights of individuals worldwide and whose dedication to the ideals of the United Nations brought him to a tragic death on 19 August this year. We all very much miss his exemplary spirit and skills. I would also like to extend our congratulations to the individuals and organizations who today received the United Nations prizes in the field of human rights and to thank them for their work and their commitment to the cause of human rights.

The fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights coincides with the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. These two landmark texts are inextricably linked. Fifty-five years ago, the principle of the universality of human rights was established in the Declaration, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed and expanded the concept.

The Universal Declaration has become part of customary law and one of the most important texts this Organization has ever adopted — with a strong impact on the lives of individuals worldwide. This is not to say that the rights provided for in the Declaration have been granted to every individual worldwide — quite the contrary, some of these rights are being jeopardized on a regular basis, and basic human rights and fundamental freedoms are being violated with disturbing frequency. The main task we have to tackle is, therefore, the gap between the universal human rights standards we have established in the Declaration and subsequent legal instruments on the one hand, and their implementation on the other hand.

Something quite similar could probably have been said more than ten years ago, on the eve of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. Back then, we already had the standards but were falling short of implementation. The World Conference addressed the challenge in a creative way and gathered new political will for implementation. The Vienna Declaration states prominently that "all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated" and that all human rights must therefore be treated "on the same footing" and "with the same emphasis". Ten years later, we still haven't fully lived up to those principles. We must understand that enhancing the implementation of one human right has a positive impact on the enjoyment of others, indeed of all human rights, and that all human rights are equally important.

And, we must not only understand this approach, but also act accordingly. In this respect, the current work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Third Committee of this Assembly, the two primary United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, is not very encouraging. Much of the spirit of Vienna has been replaced by a relapse into procedural battles, short-sighted pursuit of national interests and lack of genuine dialogue. To mention but two examples: The Vienna Conference forged a consensus on the right to development — for the first time — as a universal and inalienable human right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. After Vienna, however, we gradually moved away from this principle, and we find ourselves even further away from the implementation of the right to development. Regrettably also, the consensus on the issue of racism that was achieved in Vienna was lost thereafter, and we must strive to bring it back to the human rights discourse as soon as possible.

The Vienna Conference placed human rights at the core of the United Nations agenda and established a clear link between democracy, development and respect for human rights. The promotion and protection of human rights has thus an immediate impact on democracy and development, and we must remind ourselves of that connection in our debates on numerous issues before us. We have to emphasize that existing human rights law strikes a balance between the legitimate security interests of States and the respect for human rights. Human rights are not a luxury that we can afford in good times and dispense with in difficult ones — such as in times when cooperation to fight terrorism is high on our common agenda. Human rights are rather an indispensable element of the foundation which this Organization has created to work towards our common goals, contained in the most concise way in the Millennium Development Goals. Compromising on human rights is thus tantamount to a setback in the advancement towards our overall and long-term goals.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action is a remarkable document that is as worth

reading today as it was ten years ago. It must continue to be the basis of our work to advance implementation. Let me therefore, to conclude on a positive note, single out two outstanding achievements that are linked to or directly flow from the Vienna Conference. The creation of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights has given increased prominence to human rights issues and helped raise awareness worldwide. We very much look forward to the appointment of a new High Commissioner to continue the invaluable work carried out by his or her predecessors. Finally, while the issue of impunity was dealt with only in a rather general manner in Vienna, the international community has since established the International Criminal Court, the biggest contribution ever made to the fight against impunity. We continue to give the strongest possible support to this new institution, which is an institution of historic relevance to the cause of human rights.

Mr. Siv (United States of America): Today we remember important milestones on the path of advancing human rights internationally. We commemorate the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the tenth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights and the establishment of the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We salute the recipients of the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights for their valuable work. We also pay tribute, with great respect and with much sadness, to the late High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

There have been great advances in the field of human rights since 1948. While we recognize progress, we also see the need for further concerted work to combat human rights violations.

The United States is committed to the idea that active support for human rights must be at the top of the international agenda. The defence of liberty is both an expression of our ideals and a source of strength that we have drawn on throughout our history. In his proclamation of Human Rights Day and Human Rights Week in the United States, President George W. Bush said:

> "Today, countless people around the world cannot exercise their basic human rights. America has pledged to support all individuals who seek to secure their unalienable rights. Across the globe, we will continue to stand with those who fight for fundamental freedoms ..."

We will continue to work to protect human dignity and to advance the rule of law and Government accountability. We will continue to work to promote freedom of speech and freedom of religion, equal justice, respect for women, and religious and ethnic tolerance. While respecting other nations' traditions and values, we will advance the principle of respect for democracy and human rights — rights cherished by the American people and rights to which people everywhere aspire. It is our fundamental belief that human rights are universal. They exist in every corner of the world, in every culture and in every religious tradition.

In light of our own historical longstanding and deeply felt commitment to human rights, we will continue to work with Governments and people around the world, including through the United Nations system, to protect and ensure the human rights of all people.

Mr. Sharma (Nepal): I am delighted to see you, Sir, in the Chair. Let me congratulate the winners of the human rights prizes today, for their outstanding contributions to the protection and promotion of human rights. The prize winners have shown how each one, through commitment and dedication, could make a difference in the lives of millions of people. Their excellent examples should inspire millions around the world to resolutely engage in helping those who need it most.

The United Nations deserves our appreciation for establishing the human rights award and recognizing the work of those who relentlessly devote themselves to the promotion and protection of human rights.

This day marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Human Rights Day and the tenth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. This joint debate, therefore, could not have been more timely. I thank the President and the Vice-President of the General Assembly for scheduling this agenda item in such an excellent manner.

Human dignity and liberty are invaluable in their own right. At the same time, they are a means to help humanity rise to its fullest potential. Since its very inception, the United Nations has been undertaking

strenuous efforts to strengthen those rights. Indeed, the United Nations has been at the forefront of helping nations to protect and promote human rights around the world.

The United Nations Charter upholds human rights, including the dignity and worth of the human person, equal rights of men and women, the promotion of social progress and better standards of life for all.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights constitutes a set of common standards of achievement for all peoples and nations. Over time, we have witnessed an evolution of individual political rights, economic, social and cultural rights and, of course, the right to development.

The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights was an important milestone in our collective quest for the promotion and protection of human rights in a systematic and sustained manner. A number of international human rights instruments have been adopted to give effect to those rights. Monitoring and implementation mechanisms at national, regional and international levels are vital to that process. Over time, they have been significantly institutionalized. The human rights treaty bodies, intergovernmental bodies at the international level, national legislation, independent judiciaries, national human rights commissions and law enforcement agencies at the national level have all played a very important roles in implementing human rights instruments.

Indeed, the result of all those efforts has been spectacular. Today, more people living under democratic systems enjoy more human rights and freedoms in the world than ever before. The right to equality and the right to self-determination have made significant progress, and the rule of law has become the basic tenet of human rights.

Exploitation, slavery and serfdom have become unacceptable to civilized nations. Men and women, boys and girls, elderly and disabled persons have all now become the subject of human rights laws. Rights of minorities and ethnic and indigenous people have also been embodied in the entire framework of human rights. Yet, there is a long way to go. Millions of people in the world have yet to see the light of human rights shine in their daily lives. Conflicts and terrorism have deprived people of their human rights and freedoms in many lands. Most people in developing countries have not been in a position to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms because poverty, illiteracy and disease constrain their ability to do so.

In that context, the challenge before the international community is twofold — to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms for those who do not have any, and to expand the scope and depth of those rights and freedoms for those who posses few such rights and freedoms. Now is the time for reflection on the progress we have made so far, and for redoubling our collective efforts for the better protection and promotion of human rights for all.

There is the need to enhance the partnerships between Governments and non-governmental organizations, the business community, civil society and humanitarian agencies in implementing policies and programmes aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. All the stakeholders will have to work together to promote all universally recognized human rights in a spirit of cooperation. We ought to desist from unnecessarily politicizing human rights issues and from letting one stakeholder undermine the other. We also need to agree on measures to streamline the human rights reporting requirements that have been a tremendous burden for a number of small, poor countries.

Nepal believes in the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all, as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace. We in Nepal have an abiding commitment to protect and promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people. Nepal is party to several international human rights treaties and has submitted its reports on the implementation of such instruments to the concerned human rights treaty bodies.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal of 1990 guarantees human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. It also guarantees freedom of opinion and expression, freedom to assemble peacefully and unarmed, freedom to form unions and associations and freedom of movement, industry and trade. The independence of the judiciary and the rule of law are an integral part of the Constitution. The National Human Rights Commission, the National Women's Commission and other agencies have been actively involved in monitoring the implementation of human rights law. The Government has recently

established a national human rights promotion centre, to coordinate human rights activities in the country.

At a time when we were making major strides in letting democracy take root, human rights and freedom flourished, and economic growth and sustainable development accelerated. The self-proclaimed Maoists, through their violence, have caused a major setback to our progress. The insurgents who are out to destroy democratic Governance have brought enormous misery and untold suffering to people. His Majesty's Government is committed to finding a political settlement to the conflict, but the Maoists have time and again displayed their disdain for such a solution.

Nepal needs assistance from the United Nations and the world community at large to protect the life and liberty of the people and to provide basic services to the people in the Maoist-affected areas. These needs are in addition to our development requirements to reduce poverty, to attain a higher level of sustainable development, as well as to implement the human rights action plan.

Many other developing countries, I am sure, are in a similar predicament. We must, therefore, find together the way to tackle conflicts and poverty without which no real protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms could be possible.

The world has resources to achieve these goals. We need the political will to realize the ideals and goals that run through the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international human rights instruments and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

Mr. Laurin (Canada): On behalf of Australia, New Zealand and Canada, I am pleased to join other speakers before me in participating in this debate to celebrate the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

First, I would like to congratulate the organizations and individuals who today received the United Nations Prize in the field of human rights. While it is Governments that have the legal and ultimate responsibility to ensure that human rights are respected and promoted, it is individuals and organizations like those whose commitment was honoured this morning that are the motors behind the advancement of human rights.

On this day, it is also fitting to pay tribute to all those who have died defending human rights around the world, including peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, military personnel, members of civil society, Government representatives, journalists and many others. We would like to pay tribute in particular to the achievements and dedication of the late High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

International Human Rights Day commemorates the great legacy of our predecessors, the adoption of the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948. The six major conventions forming the core of international human rights law, to which Australia, Canada and New Zealand are all parties, and the elaboration of specific standards for women, children, disabled persons, minorities and other vulnerable groups, attest to the great progress achieved since.

In 1993, on the occasion in Vienna of the World Conference on Human Rights, all Member States of the United Nations reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and reaffirmed that human rights are universal, interdependent, interrelated, and indivisible. The dialogue of our three countries over the past 10 years has been grounded in this commitment.

(*spoke in French*)

We very much appreciate the important efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in particular the commitment and leadership demonstrated by the Acting High Commissioner, in what can only be considered to have been a very difficult year.

The advancement of human rights is a guiding principle in the foreign policies of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. We believe that the standards of human rights laid down in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be applied uniformly around the world, and we have worked tirelessly for the past 55 years to promote this goal through all available means. We will continue to do so.

Canada is proud to have played a significant role in the development of a human rights framework, from the role played by diplomat John Humphrey in designing the Universal Declaration in 1948, to its support in the creation of the position of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 1993, to its participation in the establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002.

However, International Human Rights Day is not just a time for congratulations. It is a reminder of all the work that remains to be done to ensure that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people are respected. It is an invitation to all countries to examine their own human rights situations since in still too many places, human rights are violated.

More important yet, International Human Rights Day is an occasion for Member States to renew their commitment to fulfil their obligations to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. We must continue to be vigilant and spare no effort in this regard, even in the most challenging circumstances. We must ensure that our common efforts to combat terrorism respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. We must ensure that there is no impunity for serious violations of human rights and prevent such violations from occurring in the first place.

Let us rise to the challenge. We possess all the tools necessary to fulfil this task and duty. We must put them to good use and implement the principles and values that we all adhere to.

The Acting President: In accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-second plenary meeting on 15 October 2003, I now call on the Observer of the Holy See.

Archbishop Migliore (Holy See): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate the recipients of the United Nations Prize in the field of human rights.

My delegation is pleased to join the observance of the fifty-fifth anniversary of the promulgation and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This extraordinary development in the protection of fundamental human rights was based on the greatest traditions of the *jus gentium* — the Law of Nations — which is founded upon the objective moral order as discerned by right reason.

The principle of right reason is at the core of natural law, which has inspired and continues to give vitality to the Universal Declaration. Eminent scholars have noted the inextricable connection between natural law and the reality that all human rights and fundamental freedoms of the human person and of peoples are inalienable.

When we examine the Charter, we come to realize all the more the nexus between the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the most precious and important documents in human history.

The medieval canon lawyers and the gallant legal commentators of the sixteenth century, like Vitoria and Suarez, had already developed precedents for the basic principles of human rights that flow from the primacy and dignity of the human person. These rights are not a creation of the State but flow from the character and nature of humanity itself. In fact, we do not have to go very far to see the impact the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has had on so many resolutions promulgated by the General Assembly. Similarly, the Declaration has had a positive impact on national constitutions and other basic laws that have been drafted over the past several decades.

In identifying certain fundamental human rights which are common to every member of the human family, the Declaration has decisively contributed to the development of international law. Moreover, it has resolutely challenged those laws which have denied men and women the dignity to which they are entitled because of who they are. Sadly, the fundamental rights proclaimed, codified and celebrated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are still the object of severe and constant violations.

But there are other challenges to the proper implementation of human rights. For example, there is the tendency of some to choose self-serving rights. In some circumstances, what is inalienable to some human beings, is simultaneously denied to others. A case in point would be the denial of the most fundamental human right, that is the right to life itself, from which all other rights naturally and logically flow. Such practices threaten the integrity of the Declaration. Any doubt cast on the universality or existence of non-derogative norms would undermine the whole edifice of human rights.

While there is a growing trend to take a selective approach to human rights, my delegation wishes to uphold the original vision of the Declaration — a

vision in which political and civil rights are indispensable for social and economic justice, and vice versa. In this era of rapid globalization, when poor countries are facing the daunting challenge of addressing socio-political and economic instability, the international community must keep striving to bring together the two halves of the divided soul of the human rights project — its resounding affirmation of freedom and its insistence on one human family for which all bear a common responsibility. In fact, one of the greatest threats today to the integrity of the universal rights enshrined in the Declaration comes from exaggerated individualism that often leads the stronger to lord it over the weak. And that is repugnant to the Declaration and to the fundamental rights which it promotes and protects.

To accept universal principles does not mean they must be brought to life in the same way everywhere. Universality need not entail homogeneity. Indeed, the framers of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contemplated a legitimate pluralism in forms of freedom. As an eminent scholar once put it, "there can be many different kinds of music played on the Declaration's thirty strings". It is unfortunate that this pluralist understanding is often forgotten, even by friends of the human rights project.

The world in which we live today exists under the shadows of war, terrorism, and other threats to human survival and to the innate dignity of the human person. At the source of many of those shadows lies a denial of some of the universal rights. Ironically, it is human beings who cast those shadows. Yet, we have also been given wisdom to use the light of right reason to dispel them. The noble principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will enable us to achieve that goal of a bright future for all, not just for some of the human family.

During this anniversary year of 2003, we still need to ask the question: What has happened to everyone's right "to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized"? (*Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 28*)

The dignity, freedom and happiness acknowledged by the Declaration will not be fully realized without solidarity among all peoples. Inspired by the example of all those framers of the Declaration who have taken the risk of freedom, can we not recommit ourselves also to taking the risk of solidarity — and thus the risk of peace?

Although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is now 55 years old, much of its promise remains to be fulfilled. However, it still is, in the words of Pope John Paul II, "one of the highest expressions of the human conscience of our time" and "a real milestone on the path of the moral progress of humanity". My delegation is convinced that the Declaration will continue to stand as a beacon for humanity's long journey towards a more free, just, and peaceful society.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker for these commemorative meetings.

I now declare concluded the commemorative meetings devoted to the observance of the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, under agenda items 48 and 117 (d).

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 48?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 117 (d).

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

point out that the Committee for Development Policy in its report E/2003/33 concluded that Timor-Leste fulfilled the necessary conditions in order to be registered on the list of least developed countries and recommends its registration on that list. Furthermore, in its decision 2003/280 adopted during the substantive session of 2003, the United Nations Economic and Social Council ratified that recommendation and decided to include Timor-Leste on the list of least developed countries, provided the Government of Timor-Leste accepts that decision. In this respect, the draft resolution under review, A/58/L.36, confirms that the Government of Timor-Leste has given its consent to be included in the list of least developed countries and otherwise endorses the recommendation of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Group of 77 and China would like draft resolution A/58/L.36 to be adopted by consensus.

Since the publication of the draft resolution, the following delegations have joined the list of sponsors: Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.36, entitled, "Report of the Committee for Development Policy".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.36?

Draft resolution A/58/L.36 was adopted (resolution 58/112).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

Agenda item 17 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/561/Add.1)

The President: I first invite members to turn their attention to the report of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (a) of agenda item 17 entitled, "Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions", document A/58/561/Add.1. The Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 11 of its report that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2004: Mr. Andrzej Abraszewski (Poland), Mr. Manlan Narcisse Ahounou (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Collen Kelapile (Botswana), Mr. Besley Maycock (Barbados) and Mr. Murari Raj Sharma (Nepal).

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint the persons whom I have just mentioned as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions?

It was so decided (decision 58/405 B).

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/562)

The President: In paragraph 9 of its report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2004: Mr. Kenshiro Akimoto (Japan), Mr. Petru Dumitriu (Romania), Mr. Haile Selassie Getachew (Ethiopia), Mr. Ihor Humenny (Ukraine), Mr. David Leis (United States of America) and Mr. Meshal Al-Mansour (Kuwait).

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint the persons I have just mentioned as members of the Committee on Contributions?

It was so decided (decision 58/411).

The President: In paragraph 10 of the same report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. David Dutton (Australia) as a member of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 17 December 2003 and ending on 31 December 2004.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint the person I just mentioned as a member of the Committee on Contributions?

It was so decided (decision 58/411).

(c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/563)

The President: In paragraph 5 of its report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the First President of the Court of Accounts of France as a member of the Board of Auditors for a six-year term of office beginning on 1 July 2004.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to appoint the First President of the Court of Accounts of France as a member of the Board of Auditors?

It was so decided (decision 58/412).

(d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/564)

The President: In paragraph 5 of its report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly confirm the appointment by the Secretary-General of the following persons as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2004: Mr. Ahmad Abdullatif (Saudi Arabia), Mr. Fernando Chico Pardo (Mexico) and Mr. J. Y. Pillay (Singapore).

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to confirm the appointment of the persons I just mentioned as members of the Investments Committee?

It was so decided (decision 58/413).

(e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/565)

The President: In paragraph 5 of its report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2004: Mr. Julio Barboza (Argentina) and Mr. Dayendra Sena Wijewardane (Sri Lanka).

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint the persons I just mentioned as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal?

It was so decided (decision 58/414).

(f) Appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The President: The terms of office of the present five members of the Consultative Committee, appointed under General Assembly decision 55/311 of 29 November 2000, expire on 31 December 2003. Following consultations, I have appointed Canada, Jordan, Mexico, Niger and Slovenia as members of the Consultative Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

May I consider that the General Assembly takes note of those appointments?

It was so decided (decision 58/415).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-items (a) to (f) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 34

Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security

The President: It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session?

It was so decided (decision 58/527).

The President: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 34.

developed countries, that its efforts are constrained by extreme local climatic conditions and droughts that produce a severe shortage of potable water, all of which place serious constraints on the fragile economic, budgetary, social and administrative structures of the country.

In its operative paragraphs, the draft resolution underscores Djibouti's developmental and humanitarian challenges that critically impact on the country's aspirations. It also calls for solidarity with the Government and people of Djibouti, who, among other difficulties, will face acute water-supply shortages by the year 2020, as reflected in the relevant report of the Secretary-General.

Operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution notes with satisfaction the implementation of reform programmes by Djibouti and, in that context, appeals to Governments, international financial organizations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to respond adequately to the financial and material needs of Djibouti, in line with the poverty reduction strategy paper. Finally, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial and technical material assistance to Djibouti.

There is a clear case of a need for economic assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti, and I therefore propose to the Assembly that the draft resolution be adopted by consensus.

I have the further honour to announce that, since the publication of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Germany and Ireland.

Finally, I have the honour to introduce the last item on my list, namely, draft resolution A/58/L.45, entitled "Special emergency economic assistance for the recovery and the development of the Comoros".

First, allow me to make the following oral revisions, as provided by the Comorian delegation, the drafter of the draft resolution, and agreed to by the other partners.

Operative paragraph 1 should read as follows:

> "Welcomes the signing of the Fomboni Agreement in February 2001, which created prospects for a peaceful resolution of the separatist crisis".

The last two operative paragraphs should be inverted. That is to say, the current operative paragraph 9 should become new operative paragraph 10, and the current operative paragraph 10 should become new operative paragraph 9.

The last amendment is the deletion of the words "the form of" contained in the fourth line of new operative paragraph 9.

If those oral amendments are in order, I will continue.

This draft resolution was previously introduced in the General Assembly in 1996 and 1998.

Faced with the humanitarian needs, all the internal and external major crisis and the unfavourable geographic situation of the Comoros, which has been classified as a least developed country, the Comorian Government has requested the support of the international community to assist the Comorian people. The current draft resolution therefore reflects the various developments that have negatively affected the economic and political stability of the country, as well as the important events that have had a positive effect on the political stability of the Comoros. In that regard, it should be noted that, two days from today, the authorities of the Government of the Union of the Comoros and the authorities of the autonomous islands will — with the assistance of South Africa, the countries of the region and the international community — sign a political agreement in Moroni that will end the six-year secessionist movement and establish all the institutions stipulated by the new Constitution.

Recognizing also that financial resources available remain insufficient to deal with the basic need to ensure the humanitarian, economic and political recovery of the country, an appeal is made in the draft resolution that, following the finalization of the political processes that are currently under way, financial and technical assistance be provided to the most affected sectors of the population in order to achieve reconstruction and sustainable development.

A request is also made to the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, to gather relevant information and to assess the needs of the country and possible assistance from the international community.

Finally, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present draft resolution.

To conclude my introduction of this draft resolution, I would like to thank all Member States for their support and cooperation, particularly the delegations of France, Japan, the United States, the European Union and the African and Arab Groups, as well as the Ambassador of Luxembourg, who was the Chairperson of the informal consultations, and all the sponsors of draft resolution A/58/L.45, which I recommend that the General Assembly adopt by consensus.

Allow me to also announce that, since the publication of the draft resolution, Panama has also become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Italy to introduce, on behalf of the European Union, draft resolutions A/58/L.33/Rev.1 and A/58/L.47.

Mr. Carnelos (Italy): On behalf of the European Union and the other sponsors, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel", which is contained in document A/58/L.47.

Since the publication of the draft resolution, the following countries have joined the list of sponsors: Brazil, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Timor-Leste.

The safety of humanitarian personnel working in the field is a key issue for the European Union and the sponsors of the draft resolution. In view of the dangers and risks to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly exposed, the international community must act jointly and decisively to strengthen the protection of humanitarian personnel and to end the culture of impunity for those who carry out acts of violence against them. The atrocious attacks in Baghdad, in particular, have had a significant impact on the perception of safety and security, an issue that must be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Building on the text agreed last year, this draft resolution addresses that issue. In its preambular part, the draft resolution expresses our grave concern and condemns acts of violence in many parts of the world against humanitarian personnel. It also expresses profound regret for the deaths of all international and national humanitarian workers, and recalls the primary responsibility of States hosting a United Nations mission for the protection of the personnel working in the field.

The operative part of the draft resolution urges States to take the necessary measures to protect humanitarian personnel and to ensure safe and unhindered access for such persons. It also calls upon all States to respect their obligations under the relevant international instruments, in particular the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, as well as to consider becoming parties to that Convention and others dealing with the privileges and immunities of United Nations staff and to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The draft resolution further calls on the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures in various areas to enhance the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

Among the new elements introduced in the draft resolution, I wish to draw the Assembly's attention to the request for the Secretary-General to further enhance security consciousness within the Organization, while welcoming the ongoing initiative already undertaken in that area. The draft resolution also contains stronger language on the need to end impunity, along the same lines of the language utilized by the Security Council in its resolution 1502 (2003), of last August.

While stressing the need for increased security, the draft resolution also underlines the importance of having the necessary presence of humanitarian and United Nations workers in crisis situations. The international community expects humanitarian workers to be physically present in order for them to fulfil their mandates. In that regard, the draft resolution invites the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations to strengthen their analysis of threats to safety and security in order to minimize security risks and to facilitate informed decisions on the maintenance of an effective presence in the field.

I would like to thank all the delegations that participated in the negotiations on this draft resolution and that contributed to the text. Interested delegations have worked hard with the European Union and last year's sponsors in order to update and improve the text

while maintaining consensus. The European Union is pleased that consensus came very close to being achieved on the new elements introduced in this draft resolution. At the end of the negotiation process, yesterday, one delegation announced its objection to two paragraphs that had already been adopted by consensus last year and that had not been questioned during the various readings of the draft resolution this year. Those paragraphs are also highly relevant to the draft resolution.

I wish to appeal to all delegations to refrain from amending the text. The European Union and the sponsors hope that the draft resolution can be adopted without a vote, as in past years. That would allow the General Assembly to send a strong message of support in this critical area to our personnel working in the field.

Allow me now to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.33/Rev.1. This is a draft resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people that reflects the outcome of constructive consultations with interested delegations.

In its preambular paragraphs, the draft resolution, inter alia, expresses great concern at the deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territories, which constitutes a mounting humanitarian crisis. It also notes the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and is conscious of the urgent need for international assistance in that regard. Furthermore, it stresses the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people.

A new paragraph has been included in the preambular part of the draft resolution that welcomes the Security Council's unanimous endorsement of the road map through resolution 1515 (2003), in order to reflect the most important political development to occur last year. The new paragraph has also been introduced to highlight the fact that the road map could help relaunch the political dialogue towards comprehensive peace, which would undoubtedly help to improve the situation of Palestinian refugees.

In its operative paragraphs, the draft resolution takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General and his Personal Humanitarian Envoy on the humanitarian conditions and needs of the Palestinian people. Moreover, it urges Member States, the international financial institutions of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend economic and social assistance as rapidly and as generously as possible, including emergency assistance to counter the impact of the current crisis. In that regard, the draft resolution calls upon the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance and stresses the importance of ensuring the free passage of aid and the free movement of persons and goods. Finally, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session containing an assessment of the assistance received and the needs that are yet to be met.

It is the hope of the sponsors that the draft resolution will find broad support. We regret the fact that the draft resolution will not be adopted by consensus as in previous years.

I should like to announce that, since the publication of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Bulgaria, Cuba, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.

Finally, I would like to inform members of an oral revision to the eleventh preambular paragraph in order to update the draft resolution vis-à-vis the latest developments to take place on the issue of assistance to the Palestinian people. That paragraph should read as follows:

> "Noting the convening of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, held in London on 18 and 19 February 2003 and in Rome on 10 December 2003, to review the state of the Palestinian economy."

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.39.

Mr. Schori (Sweden): I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of its sponsors, a draft resolution on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, which is contained in document A/58/L.39.

I should like to announce that, since the publication of the draft resolution before the Assembly, the following countries have become sponsors:

Belarus, Brazil, Estonia, India, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova and Turkey.

The text of the draft resolution was discussed during several informal consultations. Valuable proposals were made for the improvement of the text, and agreement was reached on all paragraphs. My delegation is grateful for the contributions made by other delegations, and would like to thank the sponsors and other delegations for the good and constructive spirit of cooperation and partnership in which the consultations were held.

The draft resolution begins by recalling landmark Assembly resolution 46/182, which still guides the work of the United Nations in the humanitarian field. It reaffirms the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality in the provision of humanitarian assistance and recognizes that independence is also an important guiding principle. It expresses the General Assembly's grave concern about, and strongly condemns, acts of violence against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, and urges all States to take the necessary measures to ensure their safety and security. It also expresses grave concern about the lack of access to victims of humanitarian emergencies in many parts of the world and calls upon Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations to ensure the safe and unhindered access to affected populations. It also reaffirms the obligations of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The draft resolution also highlights the need to mobilize adequate levels of financing for emergency humanitarian assistance, and that adequate assistance during the transition from relief to development is important. It encourages donors to improve their response to humanitarian emergencies through policies and practices of good donorship and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations to improve and increase consistency in the way humanitarian needs are assessed. It welcomes the appointment of the new emergency relief coordinator, Under-Secretary-General Mr. Jan Egeland. It emphasizes that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) should benefit from adequate and predictable funding and stresses the need to increase, in an incremental way, the share of the budget of OCHA borne by the United Nations regular budgets.

On a final note, I would like, through you, to express my gratitude to my colleague, Ambassador Jean-Marc Hoscheit for his able chairmanship and guidance during the informal consultations on this agenda item. My delegation and the other sponsors hope that the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.39 can be adopted by consensus.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Panama to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.42.

Ms. Morgan-Moss (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Panama is honoured to submit under item 40, sub-item (b) of the agenda of the General Assembly, on behalf of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, draft resolution A/58/L.42 entitled, "International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America". I am pleased to inform you that since we introduced this draft resolution, the following countries have joined the list of sponsors: Afghanistan, Brazil, Bolivia, Spain, the United States, Ireland, Greece, Portugal and the Dominican Republic.

The preamble of this draft resolution repeats the previous resolutions that highlight and acknowledge the importance of support and cooperation and international, bilateral and multilateral technical, financial and economic assistance, in order to maintain and consolidate peace in Central America after the armed conflicts and natural disasters that this region has experienced.

In general, the draft highlights the important progress that has been made by Central American countries in consolidating democracy and good governance, in strengthening civilian Governments, human rights and the rule of law, as well as in State and economic reform and regional integration.

Likewise, it also reflects the desire of the people of Central America to live and prosper in a climate of peace and solidarity and points out the consolidation of the Centre for Coordination of the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC). In this important document, which is the result of an acknowledgement of the vulnerability of our poorest populations, in particular women and children, we take into account the adoption of the Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Disasters in Central America, which

is the main instrument for the development, updating, adaptation and the integrated management of regional plans, as well as for conserving water resources and preventing and controlling forest fires.

We also point out the fact that the Board of Directors of CEPREDENAC has prepared the Mitch +5 Regional Forum in accordance with the Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Disasters in Central America, as well as the Regional Programme for Risk Management in Central America (CEPREDENAC-UNDP).

As on previous occasions, this draft recognizes the valuable and effective contribution of the bodies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, of the various Government and non-governmental entities of the donor community, as well as the Regional Consultative Group for the transformation and modernization of Central America. It also emphasizes the importance of the successful conclusion in October 2003 of the negotiations between the European Union and Central America for an agreement on political dialogue and cooperation which is designed to strengthen relations between both regions and to promote Central American integration.

In its operative part, the draft resolution notes that the significant reduction of non-reimbursable cooperation, which has been seen in the last two years, as was pointed out in the Secretary-General's report, contained in document A/58/286 on international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Central America.

Nonetheless, it does mention the renewal, in December 2002, of a commitment of multilateral and bilateral development bodies to the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, which is taking place, with the assistance of funds from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility through the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and the United States Agency for International Development.

Furthermore, it also notes the efforts and progress made in mine clearance in Central America and urges the bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the Organization of American States and the international community, to continue providing the material and technical and financial support that is required by the Governments of Central America to complete their mine clearance activities.

Lastly, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixtieth session, a report on the implementation of the current resolution as part of a consolidated report under the item entitled "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development", which would contribute to the efforts to revitalize the General Assembly, since in its sixtieth session, we will present only one resolution on the topic of Central America.

For all of those reasons and on behalf of the sponsors of this draft resolution, we ask that the draft be adopted by the Assembly.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.43.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Argentinean delegation is honoured to submit, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolution A/58/L.43 entitled, "Participation of volunteers, 'White Helmets', in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development", within the framework of sub-item (d) of agenda item 40 entitled, "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

This draft resolution recognizes the value of national and regional action to place at the disposal of the United Nations system pre-identified volunteer corps who are trained, on a standby status, both through the United Nations Volunteers as well as through other agencies, in order to provide specialized human resources and to provide emergency relief as well as rehabilitation, while preserving the non-political, neutral and impartial character of humanitarian action. Furthermore, the draft encourages the operational partners of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Volunteers and the United Nations Development Programme to use the experience of the White Helmet volunteers, even in their response to chronic situations marked by hunger, malnutrition and poverty, and acknowledges the role that the White Helmet initiative could play in disseminating and complying with the decisions contained in the Millennium Declaration.

Lastly, it requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the 10 years since the beginning of the White Helmet initiative, which will conclude in 2004, and in light of the success of different coordinated actions with United Nations agencies, to look into possible steps and modalities to strengthen the integration of the White Helmets initiative within the work of the United Nations system by suggesting appropriate mechanisms and sectors, and to report on this matter at the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

The Argentinian delegation would like to thank all of the delegations for the attention they have given to our draft resolution and particularly the sponsors for their constructive comments and suggestions which will make it possible to enrich the original proposal and to come up with a precise and balanced text.

I have the honour to announce that since the publication of the current draft resolution A/58/L.43, the following countries have joined the list of sponsors: Bulgaria, Georgia, Monaco, Bangladesh, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Argentinian delegation is pleased to submit today draft resolution A/58/L.43 and trusts that it can be adopted by consensus.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.44.

Mr. Isakov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): On behalf of Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation, as well as more than 40 other delegations that have become sponsors, it is my honour to introduce to the General Assembly a draft resolution entitled, "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster", contained in document A/58/L.44.

The draft resolution before the General Assembly today has been agreed to as a result of a series of informal consultations which have made it possible to take into account a number of constructive proposals made by our partners. We would like to thank all of the delegations which took part in those discussions. In particular, we would like to express our gratitude to the sponsors of the draft resolution, whose number has grown this year.

We are particularly pleased to report that, after issuance of the draft resolution, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Estonia and Ethiopia have also become sponsors. International post-Chernobyl cooperation is just as important as ever, regardless of the time which has elapsed since the disaster. The situation in Chernobyl and in affected regions of the Republic of Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation remain difficult. The disaster at the nuclear power plant was the cause of the core complex's particular problems in the areas of health, the use of natural resources and the economic development of the affected regions, issues which still are affecting a large number of people, including children, in the hardest-hit countries. The draft resolution is aimed at searching for the optimal effective international response to those problems, while preserving the important mobilizing and coordinating role of the United Nations and is, in that context, aimed at building a new post-Chernobyl strategy for the United Nations. As is well known, the strategy adopted in 2002 provides for gradually switching the focus of interest to overcoming the consequences of the disaster to the socio-economic sphere, while in no way detracting from the urgent nature of the tasks remaining in the field of health, protection of the environment and scientific research.

In the preamble and operative parts of the draft resolution, we stress the importance of the efforts of the hardest-hit countries themselves in overcoming the consequences of the catastrophe.

At the same time, we welcome practical measures taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations coordinator for international economic post-Chernobyl cooperation, to strengthen coordination of international efforts in this area and also the work being done in this area by the agencies in the United Nations system, and members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl.

We stress the need for coordinated international cooperation in studying the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. As an important new step in this direction, we welcome the launching, in June 2003, of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network, whose task is to consolidate and coordinate scientific research in this area and ensure effective coordination for further scientific work.

We also look favourably on the creation of a Chernobyl forum under the aegis of the International

Atomic Energy Agency and the coordination of its activity with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl. Questions of post-Chernobyl cooperation still remain at the centre of attention of the heads of States of Members States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Of great importance in that area is the welcome reserved by the draft resolution for the decision of the Council of Heads of States of the CIS, proclaiming 26 April as the international day for commemorating the victims of radiation accidents and disasters in CIS countries, and inviting Member States of the United Nations to observe that day and to carry out appropriate measures to commemorate the victims of such accidents and catastrophes, in order to enhance public awareness of the consequences of radiation accidents to human health and the environment throughout the world.

Permit me to draw your attention to the fact that draft resolution A/58/L.44, for technical reasons, contains some insignificant departures from the text agreed upon during the course of consultations. Particularly, in the penultimate line of operative paragraph 4, the word "additional" should be replaced by "adequate", and in the first line of operative paragraph 9, the word "international" should be deleted. We look forward to the draft resolution being adopted by consensus. We are convinced that it will serve the further enhancement of effective international cooperation in overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.46.

Mr. Guterres (Timor-Leste): On behalf of the 56 delegations listed in document A/58/L.46 and the delegations of Slovakia, Luxembourg, South Africa, Germany, Malta, Mongolia, Sweden, Dominica, Nepal and Azerbaijan, who have joined as sponsors, I have the honour of introducing the draft resolution entitled, "Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for Timor-Leste".

The draft resolution is in line with previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and takes into account recent developments and the many challenges ahead. It acknowledges the ongoing crucial role of the international community, including Member States, the United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of Timor-Leste's nation-building efforts.

The draft, while acknowledging the progress made in the transition from relief and rehabilitation to development, identifies vulnerabilities in the capacity of the Government of Timor-Leste to address humanitarian emergencies. In this regard, it welcomes the continued response of the international community to the need for aid and assistance provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme and all other international and non-governmental organizations during the recent floods and drought.

It especially urges the international community and the United Nations system with these programmes to continue to support the Government and the people of Timor-Leste in addressing its development needs and challenges, especially in its health infrastructure, and the judicial, law enforcement and public administration sectors.

The draft welcomes the growing participation of the women of Timor-Leste in all aspects of society, and encourages further efforts to address gender issues. It welcomes the continuing efforts of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in facilitating national reconciliation and the return of refugees to Timor-Leste. It welcomes the second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Indonesia and Timor-Leste, held in Dili in September 2003, which reiterated a commitment of both Governments to strengthen their cooperation in areas of common interest.

Finally, we have a correction to operative paragraph 3. The last part should read as follows: "reconciliation and the voluntary return of remaining refugees, and sustainable development".

I also would like to announce that the delegations of Indonesia and France also have joined the list of sponsors. It is our hope that this draft resolution will be adopted by consensus, as was the case in previous years.

The President: Before we proceed further, I should like to consult the Assembly with a view to proceeding with the consideration today of the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.47. In this connection, since the draft resolution has only been circulated today, it would be necessary to waive the

relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

> "As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

Unless I hear any objections, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees with this proposal.

It was so decided.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolutions A/58/L.31/Rev.1; A/58/L.33/Rev.1, as orally revised; A/58/L.39; A/58/L.40; A/58/L.41; A/58/L.42; A/58/L.43; A/58/L.44, as orally corrected; A/58/L.45, as orally revised; A/58/L.46, as orally corrected; and A/58/L.47.

Before giving the floor to the speakers in explanation of vote before the vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Mekel (Israel): Israel shares the concern of the international community over the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the Middle East region. Violence and terrorism, by their very nature, entail hardship for the civilian population. Israeli and Palestinian civilians have both endured tremendous pain and suffering as a consequence of the upsurge in terrorism in the last three years. Bringing this suffering to an end and providing for the security and prosperity of all the peoples in the region are critical components of any successful peace initiative and are therefore a prime objective of Israeli policy. In this respect, Israel welcomes the efforts of Member States and of international agencies to relieve the suffering of innocent civilians.

Israel has done its utmost to cooperate with international actors in an effort to facilitate their humanitarian work aimed at improving the living conditions of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Despite the unrelenting threat of terrorism that Israel confronts on a daily basis, we have consistently tried to permit the flow of food, medicine, humanitarian assistance and other necessities to the greatest extent possible.

While Israel has tried, and will continue to try, to facilitate humanitarian assistance to the greatest extent possible, Palestinian terrorists have consistently exploited any Israeli attempt to ease the conditions of the Palestinian people. Terrorists have viewed measures intended to increase freedom of movement as opportunities to infiltrate Israeli cities. They have used the immunity granted to medical and humanitarian vehicles to smuggle weapons and explosives. It is clear from these examples that terrorists pose a threat not only to those they target, but also to those they hide behind.

It is therefore entirely disingenuous to suggest, as certain speakers did in the debate on this item, that Israeli policies are the source of the hardships facing the Palestinian people. As is obvious to anyone willing to make an honest assessment of Palestinian economic and social development over the past decade, in periods in which the Palestinian leadership was actively confronting terrorist organizations and engaging in serious negotiations with Israel, the living conditions of the Palestinian people steadily improved. It was only with the breakdown of the peace process and the Palestinian resort to a deliberate campaign of terrorism aimed at the citizens of Israel that conditions began to decline.

While it is politically useful for the Palestinians to place the blame for their current predicament solely on Israel's shoulders, such allegations will do little to offer any relief to Palestinian civilians who do not participate in acts of terror. If the international community is serious about alleviating the humanitarian plight of the Palestinian people, the single most important thing it can do is to insist that the Palestinian leadership end its campaign of violence, terror and incitement, as called for in signed agreements and in the road map.

In previous years, Israel has joined the consensus on the resolution out of concern for the welfare for all civilians in the region, including Palestinian civilians. We have done so despite the fact that the resolution has used terms in reference to the West Bank and Gaza Strip that are not consistent with the terms used in the agreements between the parties and do not reflect, in Israel's view, the legal status of the West Bank and Gaza as disputed territory which, pursuant to signed agreements, are a matter to be directly negotiated between the two sides.

At the same time, we do not believe that the attention of the international community should be devoted solely to the welfare of Palestinian civilians in this conflict. Israeli citizens, including children suffering from terrorism, are no less deserving of concern.

We will abstain this year on the resolution because it includes new language unrelated to humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, including outright reference to Security Council resolution 1515 (2003), which we do not feel is appropriate or relevant in this context. Our views with respect to this resolution and to the need to focus on implementation of the road map and on negotiations as the agreed basis for resolving the conflict have been made clear elsewhere. We regret that this Assembly session has been used, once again, to further a partisan and political agenda that has sunk to the level of denying Israel the opportunity to present for a vote a draft resolution on the welfare of Israeli children, after an analogous draft resolution on Palestinian children was adopted. In such a cynical, negative and politicized atmosphere, Israel, for all its good will, does not feel it is in a position to support the draft resolution. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful that we will soon be able to return to a process of negotiation, which is the only way to achieve a lasting political settlement for the benefit of all of the people of the region.

Mr. Cumberbach Miguén (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Our delegation would like to point out that our joining the consensus for the adoption of draft resolution A/58/L.39 devoted to strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations does not mean that we endorse, in the wording of the draft resolution, the use of concepts, such as the "culture of protection" found in operative paragraph 12, that still have not been properly discussed within the framework of the work of the Organization and that, owing to their vagueness, open the door to distortion in applying the principles in Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 referring to the important topic of humanitarian assistance and to the relevant principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Shimamori (Japan): On behalf of the delegation of Japan, I would like to explain Japan's position on draft resolution A/58/L.39 entitled, "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations". The Japanese Government has long attached great importance to effective and efficient coordination of humanitarian activities. Such coordination is indispensable to achieving the optimum outcome with inherently limited resources.

Japan has therefore been an active supporter of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which plays a key role in coordinating United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant actors in humanitarian assistance. We are also sympathetic to the view that OCHA's financial base should be strengthened so that it can fully discharge its expected roles and responsibilities.

Japan believes one way to achieve such a strengthened financial base is by broadening the Office's donor base, and for this reason it particularly welcomes preambular paragraph 10, which reflects this concept. A broadened donor base would, in turn, contribute to strengthening the solidarity of the international community on the subject of humanitarian assistance by providing a sense of ownership to a wider range of countries.

While sympathetic to OCHA's need to strengthen its financial base, Japan holds the firm view that this should not lead to an increase in the overall United Nations regular budget. In that context, we are concerned about operative paragraph 3, which refers to the Office's share of the United Nations regular budget. Agenda item 40 (a) deals with the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance and is not the appropriate venue to talk about the overall United Nations regular budget. In this context, we would like to remind our colleagues that in its first report (A/58/250), the General Committee drew the attention of the General Assembly to its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which it expressed concern for the tendency of its substantive committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters. The same resolution reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters.

In order not to prejudge the work of the Fifth Committee, we should therefore interpret operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution as a political statement that should not lead to concrete budgetary

implications. My delegation would be opposed to this paragraph if it, in fact, were meant to be more than a statement of the political will of the Assembly. I should point out that the Japanese position, namely that increasing the share of OCHA's budget borne by the United Nations regular budget should not lead to an increase in the latter, was widely shared by many Member States in the course of discussing the draft resolution. It is our understanding that operative paragraph 3 points out the need to increase the regular budget share of OCHA's budget in an incremental way in the normal course of the Secretary-General's budget process, and that it does not contradict the Japanese position. Based on such an understanding, Japan can go along with the consensus.

Mr. Shalita (Rwanda): My delegation regrets that, despite Rwanda's recognition of the need for special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my delegation cannot support draft resolution A/58/L.31/Rev.1.

The draft resolution fails to recognize recent developments in the peace process in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa and the improvement of relations among States in that region. Only last month, the heads of State of Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and South Africa met in Pretoria, South Africa, and, among other things, affirmed the view of the Third Party Verification Mechanism that there were no Rwandan troops present in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There have, in fact, been no Rwandan troops present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the pullout of Rwandan troops in October 2002. We therefore find operative paragraphs 5 and 8 of draft resolution A/58/L.31/Rev.1 unacceptable and not reflective of the realities on the ground.

On the contrary, Rwanda has been very supportive of the new Transitional Government in Kinshasa. That was demonstrated by a visit to Kinshasa only last month, by the Rwandan Foreign Minister. Despite our recognition of the need for special assistance to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we cannot support this draft resolution, because what should have been a simple humanitarian draft resolution has become unnecessarily politicized. We will, however, continue to render whatever assistance we can to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as we have done in the past, by, for example, hosting tens of thousands of Congolese refugees in various parts of Rwanda.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the vote. The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolutions A/58/L.31/Rev.1, A/58/L.33/Rev.1, as orally revised, A/58/L.39, A/58/L.40, A/58/L.41, A/58/L.42, A/58/L.43, A/58/L.44, as orally corrected, A/58/L.45, as orally revised, A/58/L.46, as orally corrected, and A/58/L.47.

We first turn to draft resolution A/58/L.31/Rev. 1 entitled, "Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo." Before proceeding to take action, I should like to announce that, since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have also become sponsors of A/58/L.31/Rev.1: Portugal, Lithuania, Greece, Netherlands, India, France, Austria, Mali, Italy, Belgium, Egypt, Denmark, Finland, Nigeria and Senegal.

At this stage, I wish to announce that several delegations have requested a little more time before we take action on L.31/Rev.1. We shall revert to this later in the meeting.

Draft resolution A/58/L.33/Rev.1 is entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" and has been orally revised.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic

Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Israel, Kenya

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by 170 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (resolution 58/113).

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.39 is entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Eritrea, Timor-Leste and Nigeria.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.39?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/114).

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.40 is entitled "Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia".

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft, the following countries have become sponsors: Portugal, France and Austria.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.40?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/115).

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.41 is entitled "Economic assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti".

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Portugal, Greece, Madagascar, Nigeria and Senegal.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.41?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/116).

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.42 is entitled "International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America".

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Nigeria and Senegal.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.42?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/117).

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.43 is entitled "Participation of volunteers, 'White Helmets', in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development".

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Lithuania, Costa Rica, Madagascar and Nigeria.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.43?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/118).

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.44 is entitled "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster" and has been orally corrected.

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: India, Latvia and Nigeria.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.44, as orally corrected?

The draft resolution, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/119).

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.45 is entitled "Special emergency economic assistance for the recovery and the development of the Comoros", and has been orally revised.

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: Greece, Madagascar, Islamic Republic of Iran and Senegal.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.45, as orally revised?

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 58/120).

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.46 is entitled "Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for Timor-Leste" and has been orally corrected.

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Cuba, Lithuania, the Netherlands, France, Mali, Austria, Bolivia, Estonia, Indonesia, Denmark, Finland, Senegal, Argentina and Mauritius.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.46, as orally corrected?

The draft resolution, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/121).

The President: We shall now take action on draft resolution A/58/L.47.

Ms. Kelley (Director, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division): I should like to inform members that under the terms of operative paragraphs 17 to 20, 26 and 28 of draft resolution L.47, the Secretary-General is called upon to strengthen the United Nations security system, both at Headquarters and in the field.

The implementation of this request would require a detailed review and development of specific measures in that respect, including the proposal for additional resources that may be required. These proposals will be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its resumed fifty-eighth session in 2004.

The President: Draft resolution A/58/L.47 is entitled "Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel".

A single separate vote has been requested on the thirteenth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/58/L.47.

Are there any objections to this request? There are none.

I shall first put to the vote the thirteenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/58/L.47, on which a separate, single vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Belarus, India, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Tuvalu

The thirteenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/48/L.47 were retained by 149 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions.

[Subsequently the delegation of Lebanon informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic informed the Secretariat that it had not intended to participate in the voting.]

The President: We will now take action on A/58/L.47 as a whole.

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft, the following countries have become sponsors: France, Australia, Bolivia and Monaco.

Ms. Corkery (United States of America): The United States just wanted to point out at this point that we do not want to take the resolution as a whole to a vote. We are going to join the consensus. We will make our explanation of vote later.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.47 as a whole?

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted (resolution 58/122).

The President: May we go back to the draft resolution A/58/L.31/Rev.1, entitled "Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo"?

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras,

Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Rwanda

The draft resolution was adopted by 169 votes to 1 (resolution 58/123).

The President: I give the floor to the speaker in explanation of vote after the vote on draft resolution A/58/L.47.

May I remind the delegation that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made from the delegation's seat.

Ms. Corkery (United States of America): The United States appreciates this opportunity to give its explanation of vote on A/58/L.47 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel.

The lack of safe access to many communities around the globe continues to plague humanitarian agencies and costs lives, including those of humanitarian workers. The year 2003 will be a long and sadly remembered one for the unprovoked and cowardly attack in Baghdad committed against the staff of the United Nations on 19 August. We have all seen the devastating consequences of this tragedy for individual colleagues and for our community of nations. Our commitment to the safety and security of humanitarian workers worldwide is evidenced by Security Council resolution 1502 (2003). We have also demonstrated our commitment through the level of funding provided for humanitarian personnel security training and field officers over the past several years, and through our support of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD).

The last part of the thirteenth preambular paragraph, which refers to the International Criminal Court reads,

> "... noting the role that the Court could play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law".

In order to make this paragraph acceptable for us, we had suggested replacing this clause with the following words from the fifth preambular paragraph of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003): "... the need for States to end impunity for such criminal acts". However, that amendment was rejected.

Operative paragraph 10 calls upon all States to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). We could not accept that paragraph and sought its deletion, but it was nevertheless retained in the text.

The United States can only accept neutral, factual references to the ICC. The thirteenth preambular paragraph and operating paragraph 10 are not neutral references. For those reasons, the United States voted against both the thirteenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 10, but we wish to be very clear that we joined the consensus on the overall resolution.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote after adoption. I now give the floor to the Observer of Palestine to make a statement.

Mr. Al-Kidwa (Palestine) (*spoke in Arabic*): I wish to express our deep thanks to all delegations that supported the draft resolution regarding assistance to the Palestinian people (A/58/L.33/Rev.1), which was adopted a while ago by more than an overwhelming majority. My delegation would also like to thank all the

sponsors of that important General Assembly draft resolution. Allow me also to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the donor countries, United Nations agencies, regional commissions and non-governmental organizations, all of which have generously contributed humanitarian and other forms of assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. Our people, who are living under extremely harsh conditions that amount to a humanitarian crisis, have deep feelings of gratitude for all those parties.

At the same time, the bulk of assistance is delivered essentially as humanitarian assistance, in lieu of aid for economic development, because of the horrendous conditions created by the occupying Power for the Palestinian people. Therefore, the urgent question is how to change the current conditions in a way that would allow genuine economic development. Against this backdrop, the importance of a political solution pursuant to the road map and Security Council resolution 1515 (2003), assumes special significance.

During past years, and since the beginning of the peace process in 1993, that resolution was adopted by consensus even following changes in the Israeli Government. With deep regret, we note that this year, the Israeli delegation chose to break away from the consensus and to depart from the only positive tradition regarding the Middle East which has been in effect for 10 years. My delegation views that change with grave concern, especially in view of the theme of the draft resolution, namely "Assistance to the Palestinian people", and in view of the full international consensus on that particular issue.

We also note with regret that the Israeli position carries some extremely dangerous political and legal connotations, which is worse than its breaking away from the consensus. This is the reason for the Israeli position. The Israeli delegation took that stand because of an added paragraph that welcomes the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 1515 (2003). Try to imagine this: the Israeli delegation is not satisfied with expressing its views that reject Security Council resolutions in violation of the United Nations Charter and in the context of rejecting the road map, but also breaks away from the consensus on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people, for the very same reason. We believe that such a position should be strongly condemned and that the Assembly should draw proper lessons from that position, as we have done on our part.

We had hoped to end our intervention at this point, but a little while ago, during the explanation of vote, we listened to another Israeli statement that is befitting to occupiers, colonialists and racists, a statement that attempts to convince us that occupation is good for the people and that the Israeli occupying Power does not assume any responsibility for the humanitarian tragedy being endured by the Palestinian people.

In addition, the Israeli statement included phrases that would ensure the end of any peace process in the Middle East. The Israeli delegate claims that the occupied Palestinian territories are "disputed territories". That statement is an invitation to end the mutual recognition as well as an invitation to the Palestinian side to use phrases such as "the Zionist, racist entity". Mutual recognition is a matter that relates to both sides and we will never accept that the Israeli side would declare its illegal designs within our territories, which the whole world considers as occupied territory, without any discussion or negotiation. If such statements continue, we will find ourselves obliged to request the General Assembly to condemn those statements and locutions as constituting rejection of the Charter and a challenge to international law and Security Council resolutions. This is quite apart from the fact that such statements do not befit the General Assembly or the United Nations system as a whole.

Allow me in conclusion once again to express our appreciation to the donor community and to the General Assembly for providing assistance to our people, who are living under extremely harsh conditions.

The President: I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the General Assembly to thank Ambassador Hoscheit of Luxembourg for undertaking the task of holding consultations and negotiations on the draft resolutions adopted under agenda item 40.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 40.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-items (a), (c), (d) and (e) of agenda item 40?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 42 (*continued*)

Follow-up to the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage

Draft resolution (A/58/L.11/Rev.2)

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Egypt to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.11/Rev.2.

Ms. Khalil (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation would like to make a correction to draft resolution A/58/L.11/Rev.2. Paragraph 2 should read as follows.

(*spoke in English*)

> "Takes note with appreciation of the adoption of the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-second session on 17 October 2003."

(*spoke in Arabic*)

The Egyptian delegation would like to thank all the delegations that sponsored the draft resolution; since the publication of document A/58/L.11/Rev.2, the following delegations have joined in sponsoring the draft resolution: Argentina, Cuba, Cyprus, Guatemala, the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.11/Rev.2 entitled, "United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002", as orally corrected. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.11/Rev.2, as orally corrected?

Draft resolution A/58/L.11/Rev.2, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/124).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 42?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 45

Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development

The President: May it take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of agenda item 45 and to include it in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session?

It was so decided (decision 58/528).

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 45.

Agenda item 3 (*continued*)

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee (A/58/625)

Draft resolution (A/58/L.48)

The President: We shall first proceed to consider the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 11 of its report (A/58/625).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/125).

I give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who has asked to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Hamzehei (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation would like to express its reservation on those parts of the report contained in document A/58/625 which may be construed as recognition of Israel.

The President: The General Assembly will now proceed to consider draft resolution A/58/L.48. I give the floor to the representative of Malaysia to introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. Zainuddin (Malaysia): My delegation has the honour to introduce, on behalf of the sponsors, a draft resolution entitled "Representation of the

Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem", as contained in document A/58/L.48 dated 15 December 2003. This draft resolution was originally sponsored by 24 delegations: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine. In addition, three delegations have joined the list of sponsors: Brunei Darussalam, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

The sponsors wish to recall that at their Thirteenth Summit Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last February the heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement

> "reiterated that Israeli representation in the work of the General Assembly and international conferences must be in conformity with international law and called for ensuring that Israeli credentials do not cover the [Palestinian] territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem" (*A/57/759, annex III, p. 120*)

In addition, the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Maputo, Mozambique, last July, and the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, last October endorsed a similar position.

By the terms of this draft resolution, the General Assembly, having considered the report of the Credentials Committee (A/58/625), would affirm

> "that the Observer delegation of Palestine to the General Assembly represents the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem, and that the credentials of the delegation of Israel do not cover that territory." (*A/58/L.48*)

The second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution would factually note that,

> "pending the attainment of membership by Palestine as a Member State of the United Nations, the report [of the Credentials Committee] does not currently address the issue of the credentials of Palestine, in its capacity as Observer, to the General Assembly".

The third preambular paragraph of this draft resolution would express the Assembly's "hope that the Palestinian people will soon exercise sovereignty in their State, Palestine".

By the fourth preambular paragraph, the General Assembly would also reaffirm "the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force", in accordance with the Charter.

This draft resolution does not in any way intend to challenge the report of the Credentials Committee (A/58/625), which the General Assembly has just adopted. As far as the sponsors are concerned, the report remained unchanged as submitted and as adopted. In addition, this initiative is not an attempt to interfere at all with the technical aspects of the accreditation process, which rightfully falls within the direct purview of the Credentials Committee.

The sponsors wish to stress that the representation of Israel to the United Nations, including to the General Assembly, must be in conformity with international law. We are all very well aware that numerous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council have documented the fact that the territories in question are indeed under the illegal occupation of Israel. Therefore, the credentials of the delegation of Israel do not cover the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem. In addition, the draft resolution does not in any way intend to challenge either the presence of the delegation of Israel at the United Nations or its participation in the General Assembly. It is only aimed at ensuring that such participation takes place in accordance with international law.

The sponsors also wish to stress that the draft resolution should not in any way be construed as an attempt by the General Assembly to address territorial or border disputes. The Charter does not have any provisions to that effect, and we are fully aware of this. The issue that is now before us concerns specifically the question of the representation of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, which has been occupied by Israel since 1967 through various means that are in contradiction to the Charter and international law.

The adoption of this draft resolution would not have any bearing on the currently stalled efforts on final status negotiations between Israel and Palestine,

which undeniably would have to be determined by the parties concerned. Pending the eventual resolution of such negotiations, one has valid reasons to ask why this Assembly could not, at the very least, pronounce itself on the question of the legitimate representation of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, at the General Assembly at this juncture, or at any other time for that matter.

Finally, the sponsors are convinced that the adoption of this draft resolution would send a strong signal to the Government of Israel of the continued determination of the Assembly to demand the complete cessation of illegal annexation and occupation by Israel of Palestinian territory. The adoption of this draft resolution would also confirm the fact that the Observer delegation of Palestine to the United Nations is the rightful representative of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, at the United Nations, as indicated by its de facto status of providing such representation. We believe that such a just cause, premised on a legitimate basis, rightfully deserves the broadest support from States Members of the United Nations.

Given the significance of this issue, the sponsors recognize the necessity of continuing our informal consultations to secure the broadest agreement of the membership of this body on the draft resolution. Bearing that in mind, we do not insist that action be taken on the draft resolution today. However, it is the intention of the sponsors to revisit this issue in the immediate future during the current session of the General Assembly to enable the Assembly to take action on this draft resolution.

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Mekel (Israel): Israel would like to express its firm opposition to the latest attempt by the Palestinians to further their political campaign against Israel. In past years, the frequent and annual abuse of the credentials-approval procedure by the Palestinians has been roundly rejected by an overwhelming number of States, but the draft resolution before us today is even more damaging and far-reaching than any previous Palestinian initiatives, as it attempts to delineate Palestinian territory under the pretext of defining Israel's credentials. Far from addressing the legitimate concerns of States, the new draft resolution not only seeks to attack Israel's credentials, but purports to grant rights of territorial representation to an Observer Mission which has no authority in that regard. This marks a dangerous effort by the Palestinian Observer to redefine the mandate of the Credentials Committee and the role of the Assembly in the credentials process.

The Palestinian draft resolution attempts to politicize a wholly technical function of the United Nations. The process of approving credentials, and the agenda item under which this takes place, seek to ensure that credentials submitted comply with the requirements set forth and the rules of procedure, and that members of delegations are duly authorized by the legitimate Government of the sending State.

In the case of Israel, the legitimacy of its representatives is not in any way in question. This initiative deals not with the question of individual credentials, but with territorial issues that have absolutely no place under this agenda item. The preambular and operative paragraphs of this draft resolution are rife with political assertions that seek to predetermine unilaterally the outcome of a territorial dispute that the parties have agreed to resolve by negotiation. Such an abuse of the credentials procedures to advance partisan initiatives is unprecedented and wholly inappropriate. The proposed draft resolution represents a violation of Palestinian undertakings in the peace process agreements. In both the Declaration of Principles and the Interim Agreement signed between Israel and the PLO, it has been agreed that neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations, and that the status of those areas will be preserved during the interim period.

It should also be noted that, under the Interim Agreement, neither the PLO nor the Palestinian Council elected within the West Bank and Gaza Strip is authorized to conduct foreign relations in respect of those areas, whether in the United Nations or in any other international forum. The Agreement states specifically that the Palestinian Council has no powers or responsibilities in the sphere of foreign relations,

while the PLO is only permitted to enter into agreements for the benefit of the Council in the limited cases set out in the Agreement.

The designation "Palestine" used within the United Nations system has no territorial connotation. General Assembly resolution 43/177 of 15 December 1988, which provided that the designation "Palestine" should be used in place of the designation "Palestine Liberation Organization", emphasized that this was without prejudice to the observer status and functions of the Palestine Liberation Organization within the United Nations system. Not only does the Palestinian proposal violate Palestinian undertakings and General Assembly resolutions; it also violates the fundamental principle of universality in the United Nations. No such draft resolution has been proposed in relation to any other State in the United Nations, even though more than 80 of the States Members of the United Nations have territorial disputes.

Countenancing political objections to Israel's credentials would represent a conspicuous act of discrimination against a Member State and would represent a dangerous precedent. Abuse of the credentials process could open a Pandora's box with regard to the many countries involved in territorial disputes throughout the world. Already, a disproportionate amount of United Nations time and resources is devoted to Palestinian initiatives. The attempt to transform every possible aspect of the General Assembly's work into a platform for scoring political points is a practice that should be strongly discouraged.

This initiative unduly harms the reputation of the United Nations, diverts our resources from important substantive issues on the Assembly's agenda and contributes nothing to the prospect of peace and security in the region.

Palestinian actions at the United Nations contradict all efforts to restart the negotiating process through the road map. The abuse of the credentials procedure is but the latest example of how the United Nations has been hijacked by narrow partisan interests that destroy its positive role and create dangerous precedents. As these incidents continue, the voice of the Assembly on Middle East affairs seizes to have legitimacy and moral authority because of the tolerance shown to this kind of tactics.

Mr. Al-Kidwa (Palestine): At the outset, we have to admit that we did not quite understand the nature of the last statement made by the Israeli representative. We could not grasp the meaning of the right of reply because we did not know to what it was intended to reply. In any case, we believe also that the Israeli representative was not listening to the points raised in the introduction of the draft resolution by the representative of Malaysia. Otherwise, he would not have mentioned many of his points.

Let me nevertheless clarify a few points. First, there has been no past initiative similar to the current one. Secondly, the case in question has nothing to do with the technical aspects of the accreditation process nor with the report of the Credentials Committee. It has nothing to do as well with territorial disputes or border disputes. It is the case of one State — Israel — occupying the whole territory of another people — the Palestinian people — for more than 36 years, intensively colonizing the land through the illegal transfer of its nationals and the confiscation of land, in addition to the annexation of part of the territory it has occupied. Indeed, this case concerns the fate of mandated Palestine partitioned by the General Assembly, the need for the realization of the State of Palestine and upholding the two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Thirdly, for 36 years Israel has been the only Member of the United Nations, at least until recently, determined by the Security Council to be an occupying Power, as reflected in at least 18 Security Council resolutions, none of which, in addition to the other 19 applicable resolutions, have been complied with by the occupying Power. Let me repeat the numbers: 18 Security Council resolutions, plus another 19 applicable resolutions have never been complied with by the occupying Power.

Fourthly, the Israeli opposition to this proposal is a clear indication of its real position: its rejection of ending its occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, its rejection of ceasing and reversing its settlement activities and its rejection of the existence of an independent sovereign State of Palestine. In fact, it is a rejection of the vision of a two-State solution for peace in the Middle East. Otherwise, Israel would not have difficulty in accepting the proposed draft resolution — and it actually might not have been needed in such a case.

Fifthly, the draft resolution has always been necessary. Yet it has become even more essential in the light of Israel's actual construction of an expansionist wall inside the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. That wall has involved the confiscation and destruction of thousands of dunums of Palestinian land, the destruction of the livelihoods and lives of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians and the de facto annexation of large areas of occupied territory. That wall is the wall that will end any attempt at peace in the Middle East. That is another reason why we have to take action and, hopefully, to adopt the draft resolution.

Finally, we hope that we will deal with this important matter in the very near future, as indicated during the introduction of the draft resolution by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of the 27 sponsors.

The President: In view of the statement made earlier by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/58/L.48, the General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 3.

Agenda item 50 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Draft decision (A/58/L.29)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly held a debate on this agenda item at its 40th through 42nd plenary meetings, held on 22 and 23 October 2003.

The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/58/L.29, entitled "Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development".

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision A/58/L.29?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/529).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 50.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

In the two analytical documents I presented for the Assembly's consideration and in the draft resolution, we have taken fully into account previous decisions of the General Assembly on the revitalization issue, as an essential element of our current initiatives in this critical area. We have also sought to set up a viable framework for long-term action aimed at continuing the revitalization process, as a means of ensuring that the General Assembly can effectively meet contemporary global challenges. Therefore, the draft resolution creates various windows of opportunity to continue the work on relevant issues during this session of the General Assembly and establishes a schedule for the consideration of further steps so that the momentum for revitalization can be maintained.

We have, as a result of the positive feedback and the agreement of Member States for our two-pronged approach to revitalization, reflected this format in the draft resolution. Therefore, the annex sets out our proposals in two clusters: "Enhancing the authority and role of the General Assembly" and "Improving the working methods of the General Assembly". I think it important to emphasize, however, that the two clusters are interrelated in a complementary way. By improving its working methods, the Assembly should have a more focused and meaningful debate and take more effective action on critical global issues, thus enhancing its role and authority.

Significant commitments have been made in this draft resolution, demonstrating that the Assembly is committed to a course of action that should lead to far-reaching and critical advances in that key area. Greater support for the Office of the President, more focused debates and a shorter agenda are but examples of the areas in which commitments have been made. We must bear in mind, also, that the draft resolution incorporates several operational decisions that require us to take immediate action, and others that will significantly change the work of the General Assembly over time.

For clarity of purpose, I wish to make a further, and very minor, modification in the draft resolution. It is to place the words "at its fifty-eighth session" after "President of the General Assembly" in paragraph 5 in part B of the annex.

Taken together, the proposals in the draft resolution will give significant impetus to our initiatives to revitalize the General Assembly. Importantly, it will covey an unequivocal message that the Assembly is resolved to perform effectively the functions expected of it by the Charter of the United Nations, meet the expectations of the world's people and further strengthen the United Nations.

It is important that I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the six facilitators — Ambassador Abdallah Baali of Algeria, Ambassador Stafford Neil of Jamaica, Ambassador Dirk van den Berg of the Netherlands, Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani of Singapore, Ambassador Roman Kirn of Slovenia, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa — for their outstanding work in bringing this process to fruition. I also wish to thank all Member States and the members of the Secretariat for their full cooperation in this process.

I urge all members now to reaffirm their support for the revitalization of the General Assembly through their consensus support of this draft resolution.

The General Assembly will proceed to consider draft resolution A/58/L.49/Rev.1, as orally revised.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. Kelley (Director, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division): I should like to make an oral statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, which we have circulated in the Hall and which will eventually be issued as an "L" document.

I would like to inform members that, under the terms of paragraphs 10 and 11 of part A of the annex to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that:

> "10. The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support, of which three shall be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.
>
> "11. Transitional office accommodation and other support shall be provided to the

President-elect of the General Assembly". And the paragraph continues.

With regard to paragraph 10, two posts — one P-3 and one P-4 — have been identified within the existing establishment of the Department for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management. The staff on those posts, while remaining in the Department, would be designated to provide substantive and analytical support to the Office of the President in order to have the continuity and institutional knowledge and expertise that are sought. There will be no additional cost associated with those two staff. Upon consultations, it is understood that the remaining three positions referred to in paragraph 10 would be at the D-2, D-1 and general service-other levels, respectively. Those positions would be employed on a temporary basis for the period of the terms of office of the President: a 12-month period. It has not been possible to identify vacant posts to accommodate those requirements. Therefore, the costs associated with the three positions would represent additional costs over and above those already proposed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. These costs on a two-year basis would amount to $948,000, including $739,900 under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, and $208,100 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services.

With regard to paragraph 11, suitable office accommodation has been identified within the Secretariat premises to be reserved for the President-elect for the period July-September each year. The costs associated with maintenance of those premises would be met during the biennium 2004-2005 from within existing resources under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services.

Under the terms of paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5 of part B of the annex to the draft resolution, "Improving the working methods of the General Assembly", the Assembly would allow the General Committee to meet throughout the session on an open-ended basis to advise the Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of the work of the Assembly and would request the Secretary-General to prepare a number of reports for consideration by the General Committee.

With regard to paragraph 1 of part B, and other paragraphs related to the work of the General Committee, every effort will be made to schedule the meetings of the General Committee at a time when the existing capacity of the Department for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management could allow for providing such services on an as-available basis. On that understanding, it is anticipated that the costs associated with these additional meetings would be met from existing resources.

As regards the requested reports — paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of part B — those would be prepared from within the existing resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

In summary, adoption of draft resolution A/58/L.49/Rev.1 would call for additional expenditures for the biennium 2004-2005 in the amount of $948,000. Every effort will be made to absorb those costs. Actual and projected costs relating to these requirements would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the first budget performance report for the biennium 2004-2005.

The President: I would like to inform members that the statement just read out by the Secretariat has been distributed in the Hall and will be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the symbol A/58/643.

Before I give the floor to the speaker in explanation of vote before the vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): Only six weeks have transpired since you, Mr. President, spoke before the Assembly, expressing your firm resolve to present before the Assembly a draft resolution of the President on an issue close to the heart of each Member State. You have successfully vindicated your pledge before this house. We pay tribute to you for that reason. The facilitators, the distinguished ambassadors that you have mentioned, also deserve high praise and appreciation for their hard work and coordination.

We have been able to arrive at a consensus. It has not been easy. It has entailed accommodation, understanding and compromise. Credit for it is owed to all concerned delegations and regional groups. The extent of flexibility that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as a group has demonstrated and has received from other regional groups, including the European

Union and the delegations of the United States and of the Russian Federation, also deserves our special commendation. I shall refrain from making any comments on the two clusters of revitalization issues already negotiated extensively and very efficiently by my good friend Abdallah Baali on behalf of NAM. However, I do add my voice to the many who have reiterated that the draft resolution and its contents may not reflect all that we had individually — or as a group — aspired for. But it most definitely has culminated in the optimal and best result that we could achieve this time around.

It is with this conviction that Bangladesh joins the consensus on this draft with great confidence and optimism. We are pleased to see at least three recommendations of key interest to my delegation find their due place in the draft decision: the strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, enhancing the public outreach of the General Assembly and a reaffirmation of the complementarities of the roles of the General Assembly and the Security Council. As Chair of the Committee on Information, I would like to assure you of my fullest cooperation with all efforts towards better publicizing the work of the General Assembly in the interest of the common man.

What we need to focus on now is how best to implement the actions called for in the decision, as our peoples look to us for further direction. The revitalization process is continuous and seamless, requiring substantive support, both financial and political, by the Member States, the Secretariat and the other principal organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. We look forward to working closely with all concerned in that exercise.

Before I conclude, may I offer you, Mr. President, Bangladesh's wholehearted support in all your initiatives and those of the Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate of this decision during the coming months.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote before the vote.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.49/Rev.1 as orally revised.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.49/Rev.1 as orally revised?

Draft resolution A/58/L.49/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 58/126).

The President: Before giving the floor to the speakers in explanation of position after the adoption of the draft resolution, may I remind delegations that such explanations are limited to ten minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Spatafora (Italy): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union. The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries of the European Economic Area, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland, as well as the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, align themselves with this statement.

We warmly welcome the adoption of the present resolution. Now it is our common responsibility to ensure the implementation of its provisions, since all Member States are the owners of the ongoing United Nations reform process.

Mr. President, this achievement is a tribute to your strong leadership in conducting the deliberation sessions, thanks to which we were able to agree on this important resolution by consensus. For this, the European Union wishes to express its most sincere gratitude and support for your two-stage approach, consisting of a well-balanced package of pragmatic proposals and the programme of work for additional measures to be furthered considered before final decision. We are particularly pleased that firm deadlines have been added for the General Committee's specific recommendations and the plenary's expected decisions.

We have to maintain the new momentum in the General Assembly reform process and show our continued collective political will and determination to strengthen the authority and role of this central United Nations organ in its functions and powers as defined by the relevant provisions of the Charter.

Furthermore, the European Union believes that this resolution takes a meaningful step towards rationalization of the General Assembly's working

methods, helping to make its outcomes more efficient and effective.

We would also like to strongly commend the six facilitators and the Member States which participated in the consultations over the past few weeks and contributed their proposals. Their active interest and constructive attitude further attests to the wide commitment of the membership to strengthen the United Nations. Their contribution has been outstanding.

The present resolution is an important building-block in the current United Nations reform process. We reaffirm our intention to contribute actively to the ongoing United Nations comprehensive reform process and our deeply rooted commitment to work for an effective multilateralism with a strong United Nations at its centre. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations bodies, policies and processes will continue to be a priority of the European Union.

Mr. Kennedy (United States of America): My delegation wishes to commend the hard work of the President of the General Assembly, Julian Hunte, and his colleagues, and their dedication and drive in continuing the critical work of reforming the United Nations General Assembly. Our principal regret is that their efforts and commitment were not matched by those of the membership in general.

This resolution, while moving us forward, does not fully achieve the goal of revitalizing the work of the General Assembly. Unfortunately, this resolution, despite the President's efforts, does not go far enough in the direction of the reforms required to truly re-energize this institution. Member States must accept bolder efforts and sign on to more courageous initiatives to revitalize its work rather than watering down proposals before them; otherwise, the General Assembly risks sliding into irrelevancy.

The steps called for in this resolution must be significantly enhanced to demonstrate the Member States' real commitment to the genuine reform of the General Assembly's agenda and practices. The membership of the Assembly needs to do better, to breathe new life into its agenda. It is cumbersome and overloaded, and it needs to be drastically reduced. Redundant and repetitive items that result year after year in nearly verbatim repetitive resolutions must be culled from the agenda through biennialization, triennialization and elimination. The Assembly's agenda is at risk of imploding under its own weight.

If Member States had been willing, this resolution could have done more to streamline the agenda. More could have been done to empower the General Committee to make more aggressive proposals to manage the Assembly's agenda. We also support assistance to the President in carrying out his important duties. We can think of no more important responsibility of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services than to provide this support, and, because of its priority, it should come through and within existing resources.

We look forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the proposal to split the General Assembly's work into two sessions. We fully support efforts to streamline General Assembly activities and are interested in assisting other delegations, as well as our own, in coping with the onerous burdens of seemingly perpetual meetings. But we must be sure that this proposal will be part of the solution we all seek. To garner United States support, this initiative must be carefully costed out, the conflicts with other United Nations bodies' schedules resolved, and safeguards put in place to ensure that doubling the time for the Assembly's work does not lead to an explosion of its agenda.

Adjusting the Assembly's schedule to facilitate easier digestion of its unwieldy agenda is not the answer. Scheduling changes must be accompanied by significant streamlining and other process reforms.

My delegation again commends the President for his efforts to better this institution so it truly can perform the function that it is chartered to do, and looks forward to a continued aggressive reform agenda.

Mr. Doig (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the 19 member States of the Rio Group — Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela and my own country, Peru — I should like warmly to congratulate you, Sir, and to express our gratitude to you for the work you have done jointly with the facilitators, which made it possible to adopt by consensus the resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

We believe that the successful outcome of this phase of the exercise, which you, Sir, led with energy and determination, demonstrates the important role of the General Assembly in strengthening the multilateral system and, through the assumption of effective political leadership, in carrying out the principal functions of the Organization.

The Rio Group has actively participated in the negotiation process and would like to commend the ongoing willingness of the six facilitators to engage in dialogue and to seek consensus, and also welcomes the positive spirit of cooperation that prevailed and made possible, in a relatively short time, this important step forward.

The members of the Rio Group would therefore like to reaffirm their willingness to continue to contribute resolutely, in upcoming phases, to the full implementation of those decisions as well as to the definition and adoption of new measures aimed at achieving our ultimate goal, which is substantially to revitalize the General Assembly.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria): The Non-Aligned Movement Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly and the Reform of the United Nations welcomes the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.49/Rev.1 on the revitalization of the General Assembly.

The Non-Aligned Movement Working Group wishes to commend you, Mr. President, on the relentless efforts you have made and the strong determination you have shown in advancing the process of the revitalization of the General Assembly, so as to enhance its authority, role and effectiveness, and to improve its efficiency.

We would like also to extend our appreciation to all delegations and groups of Member States for their positive and constructive contributions and for the flexibility they have shown during the consultations, which made it possible to reach, at the end of this session, a consensus on this important issue.

The adoption of this important resolution indeed constitutes a significant step towards our common goal of revitalizing the General Assembly as outlined in paragraph 30 of the Millennium Declaration.

A number of resolutions have been adopted by the General Assembly since the early 1990s which contain important measures aimed at revitalizing the General Assembly and upon which we have built in elaborating the resolution we have just adopted.

It is, however, extremely important to underline the need to ensure the full implementation of the different provisions of this resolution and, more importantly, to pursue efforts to advance the process of revitalization in the coming years.

I would like to assure you, Sir, of the full confidence and cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement Working Group in your undertakings in the coming months in the context of the follow-up of some provisions of this resolution, particularly those related to rescheduling the work of the Main Committees, which is, as you know, of utmost importance for the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Gatilov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation associated itself with the consensus on resolution A/58/L.49/Rev.1, in view of the importance of achieving the goal of revitalizing the General Assembly. We believe that the recommendations contained in the resolution will make it possible to improve the methods of work of the General Assembly and will also increase the effectiveness of the United Nations in general.

We take note of the fact that the implementation of the resolution will have certain financial implications. We therefore believe that we must find ways of covering these extra expenditure, for instance, from existing availabilities within the general budget of the Organization.

Mr. Wang Guangya (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the successful adoption of the resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. The credit for this hard-won result is due primarily to the general membership for its support and cooperation; to your sustained attention and strong leadership, Mr. President; and to the hard work of all six coordinators.

The adoption of this resolution fully demonstrates the support of all Member States for the revitalization of the General Assembly and their commitment to multilateralism. This is undoubtedly one of the major achievements of this current session of the General Assembly in the area of United Nations reform. Indeed, today is a memorable day worth celebrating.

China attaches great importance to and has always supported the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, and it has been an active participant in the discussions. We believe that this revitalization will contribute not only to an enhanced overall coordination of the United Nations system by the General Assembly and to greater effectiveness and efficiency of its work, but also to a strengthened role of the United Nations in promoting multilateralism.

The various proposals contained in the resolution with regard to the strengthening of the presidency of the General Assembly, the enhancing of the cooperation between the General Assembly and the Council, streamlining the agenda of the Assembly, reducing the volume of documentation and improving implementation of the General Assembly resolutions, as well as considering rescheduling the regular sessions, are doable and well targeted. If successfully implemented, they would undoubtedly help strengthen the role and the position of the General Assembly.

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is an ongoing and gradual process. The adoption of this resolution in no way means the end of our work in this area; rather, it should be viewed as a new point of departure. China is prepared, together with others, to continue to support the work of the President of the General Assembly and to press the Assembly to make continued progress, to strengthen the role of the United Nations and to safeguard multilateralism through concrete actions.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

I am aware that it would be expected that I should make a statement at this stage. Having given this matter due consideration, I think the best statement that I can make is that we should all give ourselves a round of applause for the tremendous effort we have made here today.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 55.

Postponement of the date of recess

The President: Before we proceed further, I should like to draw the attention of members to the date of recess of the current session. Members will recall that, at its 75th plenary meeting, on 17 December 2003, the General Assembly decided that the fifty-eighth session would recess on Monday, 22 December 2003. However, in view of the work that remains to be done for this part of the session, I should like to propose to the Assembly that it postpone the date of recess of the current session to Tuesday, 23 December 2003.

In the absence of objection, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to that proposal?

It was so decided (decision 58/502).

Agenda item 22 (*continued*)

Assistance in mine action

Draft resolution (A/58/L.50)

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held its debate on this agenda item at its 56th and 58th plenary meetings, on 5 and 6 November 2003.

I now give the floor to the representative of Italy to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.50.

Mr. Alessandro (Italy): On behalf of the European Union and the other sponsors, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Assistance in mine action", contained in document A/58/L.50. Since the submission of the draft resolution, the following countries have joined the list of sponsors: Andorra, Austria, Estonia, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Peru, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and the United Kingdom.

After the draft resolution was submitted, three small changes were made to paragraph 24 by common agreement: the words "possibility of" were inserted before the word "strengthening"; the word "of" was deleted after the word "strengthening"; and the word "and" was inserted before the expression "non-discriminatory". Paragraph 24, as revised, should thus read:

> "Invites States to explore the possibility of strengthening internationally negotiated and non-discriminatory legal instruments that address landmines and other unexploded ordnance, as well as their victims".

In addition, I have two corrections to make. In the eleventh preambular paragraph, as agreed during informal consultations, the word "noting" in the seventh line should be replaced by the words "taking note also"; and in operative paragraph 15, as also agreed during informal consultations, the word "notes" should be replaced by the words "takes note of".

The draft resolution before us today reflects the outcome of constructive consultations with interested delegations. I should like to thank all the delegations that participated in the negotiations and contributed to the text. Interested delegations have worked hard with the European Union and the other sponsors to update and improve the text while maintaining consensus. My delegation is particularly pleased that consensus was eventually achieved on all new elements of the draft resolution.

Allow me to highlight briefly the main elements of this draft resolution, which addresses the issue of assistance in mine action at the international, regional and national levels through the coordinated intervention of States, the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations.

The text recognizes the primary role and responsibility of Member States in mine action assistance as well as the significant assisting role of the United Nations. It calls specifically on mine-affected countries to assume their national responsibilities in resolving the landmine problem, and it appeals to donors to continue and, whenever possible, to increase their international assistance through reliable, predictable and timely contributions. The draft resolution also underlines the humanitarian imperative of mine action and the importance of integrating mine action activities into broader humanitarian strategies, especially in emergency situations.

Among the new elements introduced in the draft resolution, I wish to draw attention to the encouragement of all efforts to conduct mine action in accordance with accepted standards; to the calling on all parties to a conflict to incorporate mine action provisions, where relevant, into ceasefire and peace agreements; and to the recognition of the potential of mine action as a peace- and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations. The draft resolution also stresses the pressing need to urge non-State actors to halt, immediately and unconditionally, the deployment of mines and other associated explosiv devices.

Finally, while expressing appreciation to th Secretary-General for the finalization of an emergenc response plan, for the report's (A/58/260) provision o mine action assistance and for the submission of revised mine action strategy (A/58/260/Add.1), th draft resolution encourages the Secretary-General t continue to propose specific provisions in this are when making recommendations to the Security Counc for peacekeeping operations.

The European Union and the other sponsors hop that this draft resolution can be adopted without a vot as in past years. That would allow the Genera Assembly to send a strong message of support to a those engaged in this critical area, where, sadly, th needs continue to grow.

The President: We shall now proceed to conside draft resolution A/58/L.50, as orally revised an corrected.

One representative has asked to speak i explanation of vote before the voting. May I remin delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 1 minutes and should be made by delegations from the seats.

I call on the representative of Israel.

Ms. Tennenbaum (Israel): Despite ou dissatisfaction with the language of certain sections o draft resolution A/58/L.50, Israel has decided to joi the consensus out of our deep concern for the grav humanitarian consequences resulting from th irresponsible use of mines, booby traps and othe explosive devices. My delegation believes that consensus on this issue will help us to better meet th challenge of preventing and minimizing huma suffering in this regard.

Aware of alarming changes in world event especially the growing threat of global terrorism, Israe sought necessary and timely changes to the annual tex on this issue. As such, my delegation introduced a alternative text to the fourteenth preambular paragrap that was, unfortunately, not accepted by delegations Israel remains concerned that the language in th fourteenth preambular paragraph does not adequatel address the need for Governments to take firm an decisive action against non-State actors.

Only global action can quell the humanitarian threat posed by mines, booby traps and other explosive devices. Today, that threat emanates not only from State actors, but also from terrorist organizations that operate on a global scale. When we use the term "non-State actors", we are referring to terrorist organizations and not to non-governmental organizations, as one might assume. While Member States use mines as a pre-emptive measure according to the accepted provisions of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, terrorist organizations use mines, booby traps and other explosive devices in, inter alia, densely populated areas in order to cause maximum death and destruction to innocent civilians. The danger of allowing these non-State actors to acquire mines is grave and severe. One has to remember that, while we talk about humanitarian consequences — as this draft resolution seeks to address — we should not forget the innocent civilian victims of these condemned and morally repugnant actions carried out by terrorist groups.

I would like to conclude by expressing once again our disappointment that the wording of the fourteenth preambular paragraph is not sufficiently strong in light of reality. Global terrorism constitutes a threat to all Member States and all Member States must take concerted and committed actions against non-State actors. We appreciate the efforts of those Member States that worked to address those timely concerns and we hope that, next year, additional Member States will recognize the necessity for textual changes that reflect that global menace.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.50, as orally revised and corrected.

I should like to announce that, since the introduction of the draft resolution, Bolivia and Cyprus have become co-sponsors of A/58/L.50.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.50, as orally revised and corrected?

Draft resolution A/58/L.50, as orally revised and corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/127).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): My country has always given due importance and attention to the legitimate humanitarian concerns of the international community relating to the indiscriminate and irresponsible use of anti-personnel landmines and to the ineffectiveness of demining efforts in post-conflict situations. Given the importance and sensitivity of the issue, particularly for those countries most affected, Cuba decided once again to join the consensus on the resolution.

This year, the main sponsors of the resolution included a significant number of changes, some of which have unfortunately led to controversy and jeopardized the traditional consensus enjoyed by the resolution, although a compromise formula was ultimately achieved. Such was the case of new language in some paragraphs referring to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction — on which our position is well known — and in others that makes general reference to international legal instruments on landmines.

My delegation reiterates that Protocol II of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects has already established the necessary prohibitions and regulations on landmines. We believe that negotiating new legal instruments for such weapons or modifying existing instruments only weakens the Convention — particularly Protocol II in its amended form — rather than strengthening it. The current international legal framework for landmines, as established in Protocol II, is adequate. Our main purpose in this regard should therefore be to ensure the full implementation of its provisions.

It might be possible to strengthen the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons should other countries decide to accede to it, which we believe to be a strictly sovereign choice. Similarly, the decision to strengthen and broaden existing international legal instruments on landmines is in all cases to be made by States parties. Consequently, any specific discussion on

this matter must take place within that framework and not in the General Assembly.

The resolution on this matter should not continue to encroach on matters that are not within its purview and should focus on humanitarian issues relating to landmines, which have always been its central theme. It is within the framework of the First Committee that legal and security matters relating to landmines should be addressed. Two resolutions already exist in the First Committee on those issues. We will continue fully to support all efforts that, while maintaining the essential balance between humanitarian issues and matters of national security, seek to eliminate the awful humanitarian consequences for civilians of many countries of the indiscriminate and irresponsible use of anti-personnel landmines.

Mr. Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran): The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a mine-affected country, attaches great importance to mine-action activities, particularly their humanitarian aspects. Landmines and unexploded ordinance have contaminated Iran's border with Iraq as the result of the eight-year imposed war. Unfortunately, due to this contamination, mine casualties continue to be a problem for my country. My delegation therefore very much shares the sentiments expressed in the resolution that has just been adopted by the General Assembly.

In our view, mine action refers only to those activities geared towards addressing the problems faced by populations as a result of landmine contamination. Accordingly, the resolution on assistance in mine action should focus on the humanitarian dimension. Other aspects of landmines are currently being considered by various United Nations bodies in the framework of a number of other resolutions.

International cooperation in the field of mine detection, mine-clearance equipment and technologies which can facilitate the clearing of mine-affected areas, as well as the exploration of alternatives to landmines aimed at ensuring the minimum security requirements of borders in countries with long land borders — which could reduce the deployment of mines — are among the practical ways and means of diminishing the threat of landmines to the safety, health and lives of people. The promotion of activities in those fields could be of fundamental help in mine-action efforts. We hope that in next year's draft resolution, more attention will be paid to those fields so as to facilitate mine-action activities.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 22?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 44 (*continued*)

Culture of peace

Draft resolution (A/58/L.52)

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Pakistan to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.52.

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): I have the honour, on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, the Philippines, Qatar, the Sudan, Tunisia and my own delegation, Pakistan, to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.52, entitled "Promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation".

The advent of the new millennium brought to an end a century marked by ideological confrontation, institutionalized discrimination and genocidal wars. It was expected that a new era of peaceful coexistence, human respect and social justice would dawn. This ardent desire of mankind was manifested in the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (resolution 53/243), adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 1999.

The Declaration established a new paradigm of basic values and norms for the twenty-first century, including: respect for the promotion of human rights; a commitment to the peaceful settlement of conflicts; and adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations.

It was expected that, following those guiding principles, civilizations, faiths and peoples would come closer and promote a culture of peace. Instead, the world has since witnessed a resurgence of religious and cultural intolerance. Misunderstanding and suspicion between faiths and cultures in various parts of the world has been further accentuated, particularly in the aftermath of the tragic attacks of September 2001. Despite declarations by world leaders, discrimination, mistreatment and hate have proliferated. Unless addressed squarely and checked effectively, this state of affairs could lead to interminable conflict and strife. The Secretary-General, in a letter to the Islamic Summit Conference held recently in Malaysia, rightly pointed out that the rising hostility between Islam and the West is ugly, dangerous and wrong.

All religions and cultures share a common set of universal values. Religion and culture must not, therefore, be allowed to become a source of division. Cooperation among, rather than a clash of, civilizations must be the paradigm for this new century. We must assert the indivisibility of the human race. We must cherish unity in diversity — an expression, indeed, of divine wisdom — as a treasured gift, not as a threat. The promotion of understanding, harmony and cooperation among religions and cultures is imperative if we are to lift the veil of ignorance, misconception and prejudice, which have so tragically intensified in recent times.

The President of Pakistan, Mr. Pervez Musharraf, addressing the General Assembly, has consistently urged the world community to bridge the gulf of misunderstanding between Islam and the West. Last year, he identified the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation as one way forward. Building on this, he outlined, in his address to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, a concrete strategy for enlightened moderation. Socio-economic emancipation, human resources development and the just and peaceful resolution of disputes are salient features of that strategy.

The Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace encourages Member States to take action for the promotion of a culture of peace at the national, as well as the international, level. Accordingly, last year Pakistan initiated a draft resolution on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation. Extensive open-ended consultations have been held with a view to evolving a consensus text.

We are grateful to the other sponsors for their invaluable support. We also appreciate the contribution of all other delegations that remained constructively engaged with the process of consultation. Their useful comments and proposals were taken into consideration and have further improved the text. We would like to express our appreciation for the flexibility and understanding displayed by all delegations, which enabled us to evolve such a consensus document. We hope the text will be adopted by the Assembly without a vote.

The draft resolution emphasizes the importance of promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship, and affirms the significance of dialogue as a tool to translate shared values of religions and cultures into action. It recognizes that respect for religious and cultural diversity in an increasingly globalizing world helps in creating an environment conducive to an exchange of the experiences of various societies, cultures and faiths. It reaffirms that promotion and protection of the rights of minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace. In that context, it urges States to ensure that multicultural diversity is reflected in their political and legal systems. Highlighting the importance of education in building a culture of peace, it encourages Governments to promote understanding and tolerance through education. It calls upon all States to respect and protect religious sites against damage and destruction. It urges States to combat incitement to or acts of violence motivated by hatred and intolerance based on religion and culture, which may cause discord and disunity within and among societies. In the end, requesting the widest dissemination of the relevant United Nations materials related to the draft resolution, the text requests the Secretary-General to present a report to the next session of the General Assembly on the implementation of this draft resolution.

The adoption of this draft resolution by consensus would be a timely and authoritative rejection by the international community of the message of intolerance, hatred and discrimination purveyed by a few extremist elements in various societies, cultures and faiths. Its adoption would also make an important contribution to advancing the goals of universal understanding, harmony and peace as well as security and prosperity.

The President: Before we proceed further, I should like to consult the Assembly with a view to proceeding immediately to consider the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.52. In that connection, since the draft resolution was circulated only today, it would be necessary to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

> "As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees with this proposal.

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.52, entitled "Promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation".

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.52?

Draft resolution A/58/L.52 was adopted (resolution 58/128).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted. May I remind delegations that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Cavallari (Italy): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union with regard to the resolution entitled "Promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation", just adopted by the General Assembly in plenary meeting under item 44 of its agenda. The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and the countries members of the European Free Trade Association Iceland and Norway declare that they align themselves with this statement.

The European Union believes firmly in tolerance, non-discrimination, freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief. The European Union also believes strongly in the value of a dialogue among civilizations and in the need for understanding and cooperation among different religions and cultures. From the outset, however, the European Union was concerned that a further resolution of this nature would reproduce or overlap several existing related processes and initiatives already undertaken in this area. Despite those reservations, the European Union engaged in a positive and constructive manner in the negotiations on the draft resolution. After its adoption by consensus by the General Assembly, we should like to sincerely thank Pakistan and all the other sponsors of the draft resolution for their flexibility during those negotiations and for having accepted many amendments proposed by the European Union.

While expressing satisfaction at some of the changes introduced in this resolution, the European Union would like to bring to the attention of the General Assembly its concern with regard to some parts of the text, which still fail to refer adequately to the universality of human rights. We believe the resolution should have more clearly reaffirmed the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, in accordance with article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are also of the opinion that the resolution should have focused more on freedom of expression, as described in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The European Union, furthermore, has some concern about the concept of harmony in the resolution, because it is a rather vague and ill-defined concept. The European Union would like to reiterate that that concept cannot and should not be read as limiting in any way freedom of expression or full enjoyment of all human rights by persons belonging to minority groups, by non-believers or by any other individual.

Fully confident that those aspects will be rightly reconsidered in the near future, we feel the need to restate that the European Union is fully committed to the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that, as such, they constitute an international standard with which all States should comply. Indeed, that very notion is set forth in the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights, which is proclaimed as a common standard of achievement for all people and all nations. Therefore, the European Union remains convinced that any action taken by States aimed at promoting and protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and any action undertaken to prevent violations thereof, should be undertaken in conformity with international human rights standards.

Mr. Gopinathan (India): My delegation requested the floor to make a general statement in explanation of position after the adoption of the resolution contained in document A/58/L.52, entitled "Promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation", under agenda item 44, "Culture of peace". My delegation went along with the adoption of the resolution without a vote in spite of the shortcomings and deficiencies that we perceived in the text. We should like to refer to them briefly.

When the idea of such a draft resolution was first proposed at the fifty-seventh session, we were told that it would be a first step in the collective fight of the international community against global terrorism. It is unfortunate that the sponsors refused to include in the text any reference to the global combat against terrorism. The resolution does not place adequate emphasis, in our view, on the need to promote actively ideas of tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity.

The resolution falls seriously short in dealing with the question of promoting educational policies and programmes, teaching methods and curriculums that discourage ideologies of extremism, intolerance and violence and that actively promote values of non-discrimination, diversity, tolerance, pluralism, understanding and respect for one another's religions, faiths and beliefs.

In India's view, the resolution does not address itself adequately to the need for strengthening democracy and democratic institutions as one of the most effective means of promoting religious and cultural understanding. Effective democratic institutions which are fully participatory will help avoid the marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sections of society. It is regrettable that the sponsors did not incorporate a reference to these issues in the resolution, notwithstanding the fact that language from declarations and earlier resolutions in the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization exists and was made available to them.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 44.

Agenda item 46 (*continued*)

Towards global partnerships

Draft resolution (A/58/L.51)

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held its debate on this agenda item at its 40th plenary meeting, on 22 October 2003.

I give the floor to the representative of Italy to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.51.

Mr. Bernardini (Italy): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.51. The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, and the European Free Trade Association country Norway, declare that they align themselves with this statement.

I should like to announce that, since the publication of draft resolution A/58/L.51, the following countries have become sponsors: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, Fiji, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, India, Israel, Liechtenstein, the Marshall Islands, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Uzbekistan.

Draft resolution A/58/L.51 was negotiated in a great spirit of cooperation and flexibility on the part of all delegations, and we thank all the partners that constructively contributed to this positive outcome. The draft resolution, which builds upon resolutions 55/215 and 56/76, reflects the positive developments in

the United Nations global partnership activities, recognizing the relevance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society to the collective achievement of the Organization's purposes. The core element around which the draft resolution has evolved over the past four years is the exploration of the potential that partnerships offer for achieving important political goals of the United Nations, while at the same time guarding the integrity of the Organization and the transparency of the process.

The draft resolution reflects and acknowledges the fact that the United Nations and the private sector have developed valuable and diverse initiatives and that nowadays partnerships are an integral part of the work of many United Nations organizations, including funds and programmes, particularly those with on-the-ground capabilities to deliver. The new text also sets out a number of criteria which the General Assembly regards as essential for the achievement of the partnership's purpose.

The European Union has always considered partnerships to be important steps for international cooperation for sustainable development. In order to achieve the ambitious goals set out in the Millennium Declaration, we must seek new solutions and methods of work. This will be possible only with the active participation of all stakeholders in the development process. This draft resolution shows the value of that concept, as it acknowledges the importance that partnerships have for the international community.

Before the adoption of the draft resolution, we would like to draw attention to some of the key concepts enshrined therein. Partnerships are to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the United Nations. In fact, the principles and approaches that govern such partnerships should be built on the firm foundations of the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, are invited to continue to explore possibilities of enhancing the use of partnerships to better implement their goals and programmes. The private sector is encouraged to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings. There is a clear recognition of the importance of accepting and implementing the principle of good corporate citizenship, also welcomed by the International Conference on Financing for Development.

The draft resolution takes note of the work done by initiatives such as the Global Compact and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, as well as the multitude of partnerships originating in Johannesburg and those established at the field level. The draft resolution stresses the importance of partnerships being designed in a transparent and accountable manner. The bodies within the United Nations that are engaged in partnerships are called upon to ensure the Organization's integrity and independence. The draft resolution acknowledges that successful partnerships require specific skills, and the Secretary-General is called upon to continue to support and to develop further such skills through appropriate training and the sharing of best practices.

The European Union looks forward to staying engaged on this matter and to further discussing the importance of global partnerships in the near future. The draft resolution provides an opportunity to generate momentum to build on the substantial progress achieved and to move the process forward. We are pleased to see that other countries, as well as the major stakeholders, civil society and the private sector, are taking a proactive role. We call on all partners to continue to show the same sense of commitment and support in order to achieve the ambitious goals set out in the Millennium Declaration.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.51.

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since its introduction the following countries have become sponsors: Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, the Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands and Trinidad and Tobago.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.51?

Draft resolution A/58/L.51 was adopted (resolution 58/129).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 46?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

development and peace for the twenty-first century'", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 10 of document A/58/502 the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 112, entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 34 of document A/58/503 the adoption of six draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 113, entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", the Third Committee recommends in paragraphs 65 and 66 of document A/58/504 the adoption of four draft resolutions and one draft decision, respectively.

Under agenda item 114, entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 8 of document A/58/505 the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda items 115 (a) and 115 (b), entitled respectively "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" and "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action", the Third Committee recommends in paragraphs 24 and 25 of document A/58/506 the adoption of two draft resolutions and one draft decision, respectively.

Under agenda item 116, entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 25 of document A/58/507 the adoption of three draft resolutions.

Under item 117 of the agenda, entitled "Human rights questions", the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 5 of document A/58/508, the adoption of one draft decision. We would request that document A/58/325/Add.1 be added to the list of documents on that issue contained in document A/58/508.

Under agenda item 117 (a), entitled "Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments", the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 23 of document A/58/508/Add.1, the adoption of two draft resolutions and one draft decision, respectively.

I should like also to note that in paragraph 17, the Dominican Republic should be removed from the list of sponsors.

Under agenda 117 (b), "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms", the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 131 of document A/58/508/Add.2, the adoption of 28 draft resolutions and one draft decision.

Under agenda item 117 (c), entitled, "Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives", the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 57 of document A/58/508/Add.3, the adoption of four draft resolutions and one draft decision.

In connection with agenda item 117 (d), entitled "Human rights questions: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action", no action was taken.

Under agenda item 117 (e), entitled "Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 6 of document A/58/508/Add.5, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 11 of document A/58/509, the adoption of two draft decisions.

I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute — on behalf of the Rapporteur, the representative of Qatar, Abdullah Al-Sulaiti — to our Chairman, Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou of Cameroon, for having guided the work of the Third Committee.

I should like also to thank the members of the Bureau who shared in this work. We would like also to extend our gratitude to members of the secretariat of the Third Committee for their cooperation and support throughout our work.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Third Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once — that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Third Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Third Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified otherwise in advance. This means that, where recorded votes or separate votes were taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Third Committee.

Agenda item 105

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/496)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 15 of its report. The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/130).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 105?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 106

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/497, part II)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 20 of its report and on one draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 21 of the same report. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their votes.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Cooperatives in social development". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/131).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/132).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/133).

The President: We now turn to the draft decision contained in paragraph 21 of the report. The draft decision is entitled "Report on the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004". May I take it that the Assembly

wishes to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/530).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 106?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 107

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/498)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. The draft resolution is entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing".

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/134).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 107?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 108

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/499)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the six draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 32 of its report and on a draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 33 of the same report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/135).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that it is the Assembly's wish to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/136).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/137).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 58/138).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 58/139).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention

and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 58/140).

The President: We now turn to the draft decision entitled "Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of crime prevention and criminal justice".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/531).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 108?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 109

International drug control

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/500)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. The draft resolution is entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem".

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/141).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 109?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 110

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/501)

The President: Before proceeding further, I should like to inform members that action on draft resolution VII will be postponed to a later date to allow time for a review of its programme budget implications by the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will take action on draft resolution VII as soon as the report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is available.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolutions I to VI, recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 43 of its report, and on the two draft decisions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 44 of the same report.

I give the floor to those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote or position before action is taken on the draft resolution.

Ms. Molaroni (San Marino): San Marino will join the consensus on the draft resolution on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as we did in the Third Committee. We are proud to announce that we deposited the instruments of ratification of the Convention on 10 December 2003, after the conclusion of the work of the Third Committee. Unfortunately, the rules of procedure of the General Assembly do not allow us to sponsor the draft resolution. Had that been possible, we would have done so.

Mr. Fox (United States of America): For the reasons given when the Third Committee considered what is now draft resolution IV on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the United States disassociates itself from the consensus.

Ms. Gunnarsdóttir (Iceland): With regard to draft resolution IV on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, my delegation has noticed a mistake in the reference to the resolution in the first line of the first preambular paragraph. The reference should be to resolution 57/178 of 18 December 2002.

The President: That intervention has been noted.

Mr. Hof (Netherlands): With regard to draft resolution VI, on the elimination of domestic violence against women, we would like to make two corrections to the text to reflect two revisions that were made before the adoption of the draft resolution in the Third committee. The first one relates to the last part of operative paragraph 3, where the words "where perpetrated or condoned by the State" should be replaced by "where condoned by the State".

The second correction relates to paragraph 7 (m). The last two words, "and trafficking", were deleted before the adoption of the resolution in the Third Committee.

The President: Those details have been noted.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Women and political participation".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/142).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Violence against women migrant workers".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/143).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/144).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", as orally corrected.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/145).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 58/146).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Elimination of domestic violence against women", as orally corrected.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VI, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/147).

The President: We now turn to draft decision I, entitled "Recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I as recommended by the Third Committee?

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 58/532).

The President: Draft decision II is entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the advancement of women".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II recommended by the Third Committee?

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 58/533).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 110.

Agenda item 111

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/502)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. The

draft resolution is entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly".

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/148).

The President: May I take it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 111?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 112

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/503)

The President: The Assembly will now take action on the six draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 34 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/149).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/150).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/151).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 58/152).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 58/153).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 58/154).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 112?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 113

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/504)

The President: Before proceeding to the draft resolutions, I should like to inform members that action on draft resolution III is postponed to a later date to allow time for the review of its programme budget

implications by the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will take action on draft resolution III as soon as the report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is available.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolutions I, II and IV recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 65 of its report and on one draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 66 of the same report.

We now turn to draft resolution I, entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian children".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution I was adopted by 106 votes to 5, with 65 abstentions (resolution 58/155).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "The girl child".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/156).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Rights of the child". Separate votes have been requested on paragraph 26 (b) and on the words "corporal punishment" in operative paragraph 41 (c) in draft resolution IV.

Are there any objections to this request?

There are none. I shall put to the vote operative paragraph 26 (b) of draft resolution IV on which a separate vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic,

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Botswana, Guyana, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore, Tonga, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Guinea, India, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Emirates

Operative paragraph 26 (b) was retained by 135 votes to 8, with 27 abstentions.

The President: I shall now put to the vote the words "corporal punishment" in operative paragraph 41 (c) of draft resolution IV, on which a separate vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, United Republic of Tanzania

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Myanmar, Oman, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tonga, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America

The words "corporal punishment" in operative paragraph 41 (c) were retained by 129 votes to 4, with 31 abstentions.

The President: I now put to the vote draft resolution IV as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 179 votes to 1 (resolution 58/157).

The President: One delegation has requested the floor in explanation of vote after the vote. I now give the floor to the representative of the United States.

Mr. Fox (United States of America): The United States would like to bring to the attention of the General Assembly the amendments we proposed to operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution II, entitled "The girl child", during its consideration by the Third Committee.

The President: We now turn to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on progress towards implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS". May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/534).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 113.

Agenda item 114

Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/505)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The draft resolution is entitled "International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/158).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 115

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/506)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 24 of the report and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 25 of the same report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "The incompatibility between democracy and racism".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/159).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action".

A separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 31 of draft resolution II. Is there any objection to the request? There is none.

I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 31 of draft resolution II, on which a separate vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Armenia, Belarus, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Tuvalu, Ukraine

Operative paragraph 31 of draft resolution II was retained by 115 votes to 44, with 13 abstentions.

The President: I shall now put to the vote draft resolution II as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Australia, Canada

Draft resolution II as a whole was adopted by 174 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 58/160).

The President: The Assembly will now turn to the draft decision entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the elimination of racism and racial discrimination".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/535).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 115?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 116

Right of peoples to self-determination

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/507)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 25 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia,

Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Bhutan, India, Mauritius

Abstaining:

Andorra, Belarus, Belgium, Burundi, Colombia, Comoros, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

Draft resolution I was adopted by 109 votes to 3, with 61 abstentions (resolution 58/161).

[Subsequently, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Lao People's Democratic Republic informed the Secretariat that they had not intended to participate in the voting.]

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania,

Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution II was adopted by 125 votes to 26, with 29 abstentions (resolution 58/162).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America

Draft resolution III was adopted by 169 votes to 5 (resolution 58/163).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote on the resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Amorós Núñez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): In relation to the resolution just adopted entitled "Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination" and contained in the report, our delegation wishes to say that it voted in favour, taking into account that the text enshrines this principle of the Charter of the United Nations and its universal implementation. The text does not assume its implementation in any particular way or relative to specific situations, which is why it had our support. For Cuba, the universal implementation of this principle is a reaffirmation of the Charter of the United Nations, which we cannot question.

We take this opportunity to reject any attempt to interpret the adopted text as being limited to or relating exclusively to any particular conflict situation. Our delegation does not share that interpretation and rejects it.

Ms. Serazzi (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): My explanation of vote relates to draft resolution I, which

we just adopted: "Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination". My country voted in favour of that draft resolution on the basis of its traditional and resolute support for the decolonization process carried forward by the United Nations, in conformity with the provisions and purposes of the Organization's Charter and with the principles enunciated in resolution 1514 (XV) and other General Assembly resolutions on that subject.

Chile, in its capacity as a member of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, known as the Special Committee of 24 on decolonization, attaches particular interest to the satisfactory and final conclusion of that process. We are fully convinced that cooperation by all United Nations Member States will enable us to attain that objective. In that connection, Chile reiterates that it voted, specifically and solely, in favour of the principle of self-determination.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 116?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 117

Human rights questions

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/508)

The President: I have one request for explanation of vote before the vote. I give the floor to the representative of the United States.

Mr. Fox (United States of America): The United States understands that the General Assembly, in all of its decisions today to take note of reports of the Secretary-General, is doing so consistent with General Assembly decision 55/488 of 7 September 2001.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 5 of its report. The draft decision is entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of human rights".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee, as orally corrected by the Rapporteur?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/536).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 117.

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/508/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 23 of its report and on the one draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 24 of the same report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/164).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/165).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/166).

The President: The Assembly will now turn to the draft decision entitled "Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the implementation of human rights instruments".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/537).

The President: I have one request for explanation of vote after the vote. I give the floor to the representative of the United States.

Mr. Fox (United States of America): The United States would like to bring to the attention of the General Assembly the amendment we proposed to operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution II, entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights" during its consideration by the Third Committee.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 117?

It was so decided.

(b) Human rights questions, including the alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/508/Add.2)

The President: In this connection, and at the request of the delegation of Ukraine, I wish to inform members that an addendum to the letter dated 7 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, transmitting the joint statement on the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, has been circulated under the symbol A/C.3/58/9/Add.1 to announce additional signatories.

Before proceeding to the draft resolutions, I should also like to inform members that action on draft resolution XXVIII is postponed to a later date in order to allow time for the review of its programme budget implications by the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will take action on draft resolution XXVIII as soon as the report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is available.

I have one request for explanation of vote before the vote.

Mr. Mekel (Israel): I would like to refer to item 117 (b) and the draft resolution on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance. I am obliged to inform the Assembly that Israel will be forced to abstain on a resolution that is central to its history and to its foundations as a modern State. We supported this very draft resolution in the Third Committee on the understanding that the draft resolution addressing the problem of anti-Semitism would be formally tabled in the General Assembly. Now, as no such draft resolution has in fact been tabled and no reference to anti-Semitism has been incorporated into the draft resolution, we have been left with no option but to abstain in the plenary and express our disappointment at the process that led to this result.

As a State created in the wake of the Holocaust, whose people are all too familiar with intolerance and discrimination, Israel supports without reservation the general message conveyed in this draft resolution and international efforts aimed at eradicating all forms of religious intolerance and related discrimination. Over the past 20 years, Israel has stood shoulder to shoulder with its United Nations counterparts in sponsoring this very draft resolution. But an alarming global escalation in anti-Semitic incidents in the intervening period demands a necessary and timely change to the annual text. As we debated this draft resolution last month, twin truck bombings killed 25 people and wounded more than 300 in two synagogues in Istanbul, Turkey. Near daily incidents of anti-Semitism in the Middle East, Europe and throughout other parts of the world demand our specific attention.

Israel regrets that the intention to present a special draft resolution to the General Assembly on the scourge of anti-Semitism did not materialize and that certain States chose to block the initiative. We continue to look towards the United Nations to show the way and issue a resounding moral condemnation of the cancer that is anti-Semitism. The Holocaust taught us that all that is needed for evil to prosper is for good people to do nothing. Do not let it be said that the United Nations stood in the way of what is so patently right.

Mr. Hof (Netherlands): At the 55th meeting of the Third Committee, on 24 November, my delegation made several revisions to draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.66. Two of those revisions have not been included in draft resolution XIX, "In-depth study on all forms of violence against women", and I would like to point them out. They both relate to subparagraph (a) of the operative paragraph of the draft resolution. In

subparagraph (a), the words "including those outlined in the present resolution" should be deleted. Further on, the word "existing" before the word "research" should also be deleted.

The President: Those comments have been noted.

The Assembly will take a decision on draft resolutions I to XXVII, recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 131 of its report, and on a draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 132 of the same report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Human rights and cultural diversity".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/167).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/168).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Human rights and mass exoduses".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/169).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 58/170).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Human rights and unilateral coercive measures".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Draft resolution V was adopted by 125 votes to 53 (resolution 58/171).

The President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "The right to development".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining:

Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Sweden

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 173 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions (resolution 58/172).

The President: Draft resolution VII is entitled "The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco,

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I recommended by the Third Committee?

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 58/542).

The President: Draft decision II is entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II recommended by the Third Committee?

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 58/543).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

The President: Draft resolution X is entitled "Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution X without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 58/176).

The President: Draft resolution XI is entitled "Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XI was adopted (resolution 58/177).

The President: Draft resolution XII is entitled "Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XII was adopted (resolution 58/178).

The President: Draft resolution XIII is entitled "Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Draft resolution XIII was adopted by 181 votes to 1 (resolution 58/179).

The President: Draft resolution XIV is entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam

Draft resolution XIV was adopted by 169 votes to none, with 8 abstentions (resolution 58/180).

The President: Draft resolution XV is entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XV was adopted (resolution 58/181).

The President: Draft resolution XVI is entitled "Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVI without a vote. May I take it the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XVI was adopted (resolution 58/182).

The President: Draft resolution XVII is entitled "Human rights in the administration of justice".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVII without a vote. May I take it the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XVII was adopted (resolution 58/183).

The President: Draft resolution XVIII is entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVIII without a vote.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Israel

Draft resolution XVIII was adopted by 179 votes to none, with 1 abstention (resolution 58/184).

The President: Draft resolution XIX, orally corrected, is entitled "In-depth study on all forms of violence against women".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIX, as orally corrected, without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XIX, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/185).

The President: Draft resolution XX is entitled "The right to food".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda,

Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Israel, Marshall Islands

Draft resolution XX was adopted by 176 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions (resolution 58/186).

The President: Draft resolution XXI is entitled "Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism".

A single separate vote has been requested on operative paragraphs 10 and 11 of draft resolution XXI. Is there any objection to this request? There is none.

I shall put to the vote operative paragraphs 10 and 11 of draft resolution XXI, on which a single separate vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

India

Abstaining:

Australia, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Israel, Kenya, Myanmar, Philippines, Rwanda, United States of America

Operative paragraphs 10 and 11 were retained by 160 votes to 1, with 12 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic informed the Secretariat that it had not intended to participate in the voting.]

The President: I now put to the vote draft resolution XXI as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

India

Draft resolution XXI as a whole was adopted by 181 votes to none, with 1 abstention (resolution 58/187).

The President: Draft resolution XXII is entitled "Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms and in solving international problems of a humanitarian character".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution XXII was adopted by 106 votes to 55, with 19 abstentions (resolution 58/188).

The President: We now turn to draft resolution XXIII, entitled "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and diversity of democratic systems in electoral processes as an important element for the promotion and protection of human rights".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Sudan, Switzerland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution XXIII was adopted by 111 votes to 10, with 55 abstentions (resolution 58/189).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Sudan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: Draft resolution XXIV, as orally corrected, is entitled "Protection of migrants".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XXIV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXIV, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/190).

The President: Draft resolution XXV, as orally corrected, is entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XXV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XXV, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/191).

The President: Draft resolution XXVI is entitled "Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, India, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Singapore, Timor-Leste

Draft resolution XXVI was adopted by 119 votes to 50, with 9 abstentions (resolution 58/192).

The President: Draft resolution XXVII is entitled "Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania,

Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Singapore

Draft resolution XXVII was adopted by 123 votes to 51, with 4 abstentions (resolution 58/193).

The President: The draft decision is entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with human rights questions, including alternative approaches for the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/538).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 17.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

Human rights questions

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/508/Add.3)

The President: Before proceeding to the draft resolutions, I would like to inform members that action on draft resolution II is postponed to a later date to allow for the review of its programme budget implications by the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will take action on draft resolution II as soon as the report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is available.

The Assembly will take a decision on draft resolutions I, III and IV recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 57 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 58 of the same report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Situation of human rights in Turkmenistan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay

Against:

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zambia

Draft resolution I was adopted by 73 votes to 40, with 56 abstentions (resolution 58/194).

The President: We turn next to draft resolution III, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Dominica, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia

Draft resolution III was adopted by 68 votes to 54, with 51 abstentions (resolution 58/195).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Suriname informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

A separate vote has been requested on the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution IV, as well as a single separate vote on operative paragraphs 3 (b) and 6 (e). Are there any objections to those requests? There are none.

I shall now put to the vote the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution IV, on which a separate vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela

Against:

Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda

Abstaining:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

The fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution IV was retained by 89 votes to 3, with 75 abstentions.

The President: I shall now put to the vote operative paragraphs 3 (b) and 6 (e) of draft resolution IV, on which a single separate vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela

Against:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Grenada, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of),

Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia

Operative paragraphs 3 (b) and 6 (e) of draft resolution IV were retained by 73 votes to 49, with 44 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Turkmenistan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution IV as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela

Against:

Rwanda, Uganda

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution IV as a whole was adopted by 81 votes to 2, with 91 abstentions (resolution 58/196).

The President: We turn now to the draft decision entitled "Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/539).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote on the resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Fox (United States of America): The United States would like to bring to the attention of the General Assembly the amendment we proposed to operative paragraph 6 (g) of resolution 58/196, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", during its consideration by the Third Committee.

Mrs. Serazzi (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): My explanation of vote is related to draft resolution III, "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran". In the previous draft resolutions submitted on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chile abstained, having valued the efforts of President Khatami and his Government to improve Iran's situation. However, my country deplores the violent death of Ms. Zahra Kazemi — the main reason for the submission of the draft resolution — and we hope that the judicial system can resolve that matter shortly.

In addition, we carefully reviewed the reports of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on its visit to that country in February, and we welcome the incentive of the standing invitations extended recently by the Government of Iran. However, such visits should be seen as means and not an end. In other words, once the supervision mechanisms enter the country, the authorities should cooperate so that such visits can take place in complete transparency, so as to ensure that the recommendations are fully implemented. That is why Chile fervently hopes that conditions will be established in the Islamic Republic of Iran that will provide for the full enjoyment of human rights on its territory.

In the coming months, the Government of Chile will follow closely the development of the situation in Iran, which will affect our future position in that regard.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 117.

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/508/Add.4)

The President: May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the report of the Third Committee?

It was so decided (decision 58/540).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 117?

It was so decided.

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/508/Add.5)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The draft decision is entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/541).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 117?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/509)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 11 of its report.

Draft decision I is entitled "Organization of the work of the Third Committee and biennial programme of work of the Committee for 2004-2005".